FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MAR 2 7 1978

D 353-L-6 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-MEA-78-52

FBIS-MEA-78-52
Thursday
16 March 1978
Vol V No 52

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FROM BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO ARAB LEADERS

NC151430Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has urged the Arab kings and presidents to adopt a unified Arab stand to confront the new Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and to exert efforts with the big powers, the United Nations and the Security Council to end this aggression.

In a message addressed to the Arab kings and presidents today, Mahmud Riyad affirmed that he will mobilize everything at the Arab League's disposal to promote this collective and effective Arab action to achieve this goal. The following is the text of the message:

The Arab nation was last night confronted with a new expansionist aggression by Israel which has declared its intention to occupy southern Lebanon, realize its old dreams and exterminate the Palestinians which it had forced in the past to leave their homes and take refuge in Lebanese territory. You are undoubtedly concerned with these events and are working for a collective Arab action. I would like to inform you that I cabled the UN Secretary General today asking him to intervene immediately and to exercise his powers to put an end to the Israeli aggression and to insure an immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

I also hope you will exert your efforts with the various states, foremost the big powers which shoulder a special responsibility toward world peace, and issue your instructions to your permanent delegates at the United Nations to adopt a unified Arab stand at the world organization so as to carry out the international duty within the framework of the Security Council.

'ARAFAT SENDS MESSAGE TO KUWAITI RULER

NC151351Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 March--Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister and acting interior minister, today received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, on today's Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon. The message was delivered to him by 'Ali Yasin, director of the PLO office in Kuwait, during a meeting between them today.

'Ali Yasin told the QNA correspondent here that in his message, Yasir 'Arafat appeals to the Arab leaders to assume their pan-Arab historic responsibilities and stand with the Palestinian revolution against Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's decision to launch genocide against the Palestinian people.

'Ali Yasin also said that Kuwait has shown understanding of the Palestinian viewpoint and that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed to him Kuwait's support for the PLO and the Palestinian people and its readiness to provide all that is asked of it in this connection.

The Palestinian leader's message to the amir of Kuwait is one of a number of messages he has sent to Arab leaders following the abominable attack on southern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT PRAISES PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS' EFFORTS

JN151939Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has praised the Palestinian revolution fighters and their heroic stand in the face of the Zionist aggression. In a message addressed to the fighters 'Arafat said: Your stand is one of honor and heroism in defense of your people, revolution and cause and in defense of Lebanon, Palestine and the entire Arab nation.

ABU MAYZAR DENOUNCED ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN151720Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official PLO spokesman, has announced that the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon is meant to implement the Zionist authorities' decision to launch a war of extermination against the Palestinian Arab people and against the PLO. At a press conference this afternoon, he said that this aggression reveals clearly to world public opinion the fascist and criminal nature of the Zionist entity.

Abu Mayzar described the brutal offensive against southern Lebanon as a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and as an act of aggression against the security of the Arab area. He said that this aggression comes within the framework of Zionist-U.S. coordination which has been going on for a long time with the aim of imposing a liquidationist and capitulatory solution on the Arab nation and of circumventing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Abu Mayzar stressed that the Palestinian Arab people, under the leadership of the PLO, will confront the Zionist enemy so as to foil U.S.-Zionist schemes in the Arab area aimed at dominating the entire area.

Abu Mayzar referred to the progress of battles in southern Lebanon, which demonstrates the extent of the determination of the Palestinian people and their revolution and revolutionaries to confront the aggression and to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. He urged world public opinion to face the Zionist enemy, to condemn its aggression and to take action to further isolate Israel on the international level.

Asked about the losses inflicted on the Zionist enemy, Abu Mayzar said that the Palestinian revolution forces have succeeded more than once in stopping the advance of the enemy forces on more than one axis. He said that messages monitored from enemy radios disclose that the enemy has suffered extremely heavy losses. He said that we expect that the scope of this aggression will increase at any moment.

PLO SPOKESMAN: ISRAELI ATTACK ORDERED BY U.S.

LD151855Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Beirut, 15 March, JANA--Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has commented on the large-scale Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. He emphasized to Arab and foreign correspondents that the attack took place on American orders.

He added that the political objective behind this operation goes beyond the question of retaliation, since we had been expecting this operation since before the Tel Aviv operation was carried out.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh reaffirmed that the purpose of the aggression is to weaken the Palestinian resistance as much as possible, particularly the PLO. He added that the military operation is intended to pave the way for the resumption of the political dialog among the Egyptian president, Begin and Carter and to lay down a formula of a capitulatory settlement at the expense of our people's national rights and at the expense of the steadfast states.

'Abd Rabbuh also said that at the Lebanese level the military operation's aim is manifested by the isolationist groups attempt to exploit the military operation in order to reopen the question of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, terminate the role of the [Arab] deterrent forces, and ultimately to monopolize authority with the support of the Zionist entity.

PLO ENVOY IN ALGIERS COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ATTACK

LD151432Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Statement by Abu Hassan, PLO representative in Algiers, on the Israeli military operations in Lebanon--recorded]

[Excerpt] It is regrettable that the As-Sadat regime declares through its president that the Palestinian fedayeen operations in the depth of the occupied Palestinian territories are acts of terrorism and subversion. He denounces these operations, but he is now, alas, blessing the new Zionist occupation of the Lebanon Arab territory in the south and also blessing the Zionist terrorism, in its killing, racism and fascism against the Palestinian and Lebanese people alike. We want to hear the voice of Egypt now. Are the operations of 25,000 Israeli soldiers supported by aircraft, tanks and artillery terroristic actions, or are they the legitimate right of the usurping, racist, fascist, reactionary, imperialist and Zionist occupation? We want to hear the voice of Egypt now. Let all Arab stands be clearly defined concerning this attack by which the enemies want to annihilate our people and our revolution. We want to hear the voice of the Arab nation. We want Begin to hear that the Arab nation will reject his terroristic logic and also his presence in the Palestinian territories.

We have confidence in the masses of our Arab nation and in the pioneer role which the states and members of the front of steadfastness and confrontation will play. This front, which came into existence only a few months ago, will play its historic role in confronting this aggression. It will foil all imperialist and Zionist plans. Syria will stand by the Palestinian revolution in confronting this attack. Libya, the revolution, Algeria, the revolution, Democratic Yemen, the revolution, will stand by the Palestinian revolution. Iraq will also do so. It is a basic demand at this stage that the voice of Iraq be raised and heard in public--Iraq of the revolution, Iraq of the struggle, Iraq which has offered its army and all its potential for national issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian cause. Neither Iraq nor the members of the steadfastness front will be onlookers. They will adopt a positive stand confronting all the imperialist and Zionist plans.

Greetings to all who stand by the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese revolutionary forces who have heroically stood up to the Zionist aggression. The Palestinian revolution will find its way, together with all the struggling forces, to complete victory.

PFLP CALLS ON ARAB COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT PALESTINIANS

JN152050Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has called on the progressive Arab countries to take measures to insure support for the Palestinian revolution and the progressive Lebanese forces. PFLP spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said that the battles being waged by the joint Lebanese and Palestinian forces are battles in defense of the Arab masses and their pan-Arab interests. This requires all progressive Arab forces to face up to their historical responsibilities. He further said that it is time for everyone to understand that the only way to ward off the danger is to confront the Zionist enemy through a protracted war in which all the huge resources and manpower of the great Arab homeland are pooled. Abu Sharif stressed that fighting against the Zionist enemy will not stop.

SANA CITES WAFA REPORT ON FIGHTING IN LEBANON

JN151819Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1753 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 March--The Palestinian news agency [WAFA] has reported on the military situation in Tyre from 1330 to 1645 today. The report says that the Zionist enemy air force has ferociously bombarded the city of Tyre. The bombardment was aimed at the center of the city, the commercial centers, the harbor and the residential quarters. As a result, numerous civilians--women, children and elderly people--were killed or wounded.

The enemy air force has shelled the area of Abu al-Aswad. Zionist enemy gunboats are shelling Tyre and the ar-Rashidiyah camp.

The report further says that the Zionist enemy air force repeated its raid against and shelling of the ar-Rashidiyah camp. The air and sea bombardment continued unabated during the entire period.

The report describes the military situation on the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar axis from dawn until 1500 today. The report states: Since dawn today the enemy forces have been trying to occupy Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and the martyr Salah base. Our forces were able to repulse successive attacks on the base and the township.

The report adds that at 1500 today enemy planes heavily bombarded the positions of the revolution forces at Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, al-Khuraybah, the martyr Salah base and (Abu Matmaha). Two squadrons continuously alternated in attacking the base throughout this period. This was followed by a ground attack on Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and the martyr Salah base. Fierce fighting continues in the region.

MENA Cites Palestinian Spokesman

NC151850Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--A Palestinian military spokesman this evening summed up the results of the ferocious 17-hour battles that took place from the beginning of the Israeli aggression until 1700 today. He said that the losses of the Israeli forces are estimated at no less than 300 killed or wounded and that a large number of vehicles and armored cars have been destroyed.

The spokesman, however, did not mention anything about the losses of the Palestinian forces, who are continuing to fight ferociously on all lines.

The spokesman said that the Palestinian air defenses in Tyre have shot down an Israeli Skyhawk plane, which was seen falling in flames in the occupied territories.

The spokesman said that the attack on the Kafr Shuba martyr Salah base in the eastern sector has been halted by the Palestinian resistance and steadfastness, while the clashes are continuing along all the other lines. The enemy is carrying out air raids on all the front lines, concentrating his attacks on the at-Tirah area and is paving the way for these attacks by heavy air raids and artillery shelling.

Clashes in Southern Lebanon

JN160039Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0015 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] An official PLO spokesman stated just before midnight last night that despite terrorist Begin's assertion that the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon has ended, Israeli infantry, heavy artillery and armored vehicles are still engaged in fighting against the forces of the Palestinian revolution in all sectors of the border area. The Palestinian official added that Israeli jets are dropping flares to help direct artillery fire against fedayeen positions. Shortly after midnight Israeli fighter bombers and jets flew over the region and dropped bombs on an-Nabatiyah, 'Arnun and other areas.

PLO DENIES TEL AVIV OPERATION LAUNCHED FROM CYPRUS

JN151526Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1513 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Nicosia, 15 March--The PLO representative here has denied Zionist allegations that seven of the fedayeen who carried out the operation in occupied Palestine last Saturday were sent from Nicosia. He said that these allegations are aimed at sowing dissension between the Palestinian and Cypriot peoples who are linked by strong ties of friendship.

AL-FAJR: WEST BANK MAYORS OPPOSE EGYPT'S CALLS TO GAZA

JN140612Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR recently reported that the mayors in the occupied homeland are now drafting a memo to be sent to the Arab League denouncing the Egyptian authorities' intervention.

It should be mentioned that the As-Sadat government makes some 10 telephone calls daily, via certain Western capitals, to certain suspect persons in the occupied Gaza Strip with the aim of disrupting the unity of the Palestinian ranks and sowing discord and division by means of a group of agents and well-known narcotic traffickers.

The Jerusalem daily report states that the trade unions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are also drafting a memo to protest the rancorous Egyptian authorities' measures against Palestinians living in Egypt.

ARAB CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT ENDS 3-DAY SESSION

LD122323Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference conluded its work this evening in Tripoli at the end of a 3-day session during which it studied reports from the subcommittees entrusted with looking into the (?various) aspects connected with the start of the trial of the Egyptian president for his [word indistinct] and his betrayal of the Arab and the liberation causes. The secretariat issued the following resolutions at the end of its meeting:

The secretariat endorsed the indictment presented by the drafting committee, which consists of a group of jurists and experts. It also decided on the measures necessary to make the indictment known to world and Arab public opinion. The secretariat stressed that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's plan for building the progressive Arab popular national front be placed on the agenda of the coming session. It also decided that this agenda will include the study and support of the national movements and the national liberation armed struggle movements, namely, the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese national movement, the Egyptian national movement, the National Front for the Liberation of Oman, POLISARIO, and other armed liberation movements.

The secretariat decided to embark on a vast information campaign through all the media on 8 April, the anniversary of the Dayr Yasin massacre, carried out by terrorist Menahem Begin against our Palestinian Arab people, and on 30 March, on the occasion of the Day of the Land.

The secretariat called for a conference to be attended by progressive Arab economists in connection with the containment of colonialist interests and the practical program to put an end to them and liberate the Arab economy from their domination, to study the economic consequences of the departure by the regime of the Egyptian president from the resolutions for the Arab Boycott of the Zionist enemy and those dealing with this enemy, to determine the method of confronting this departure and also to confront what legislation might come from Britain against the Arab Boycott of the Zionist entity. The conference will also study how to confront the multinational companies' advance against our Arab homeland.

The secretariat stressed the importance of drawing up a scientific and practical program for the economic integration of the progressive Arab countries.

The secretariat also decided to hold a conference on the question of democracy and political freedom in the Arab homeland as part of the solidarity with the Arab national forces exposed to persecution and terrorism, and also to expose the (?despotism) exercised by some Arab regimes against their own people and the threat this poses to the national struggle movement. The secretariat called for the release of political and patriotic detainees.

It also decided to invite all leaders of the Arab trade unions and vocational unions to attend the coming session of the secretariat in order to enter into a dialog on the problems facing these unions and the ways of closing their ranks and consolidating their positions in the battle of Arab destiny.

The secretariat also decided to continue to celebrate the national 23 July [Egyptian] Revolution.

The participants in the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference expressed thanks and gratitude to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for its basic and positive role in supporting the liberation movements and supporting the peoples' just causes.

Indicts as-Sadat for Treason

JN121140Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1024 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, 12 March--The permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference here last night issued the bill of indictment against Anwar as-Sadat.

The bill of indictment says that as-Sadat is accused of violating the Egyptian constitution and infringing on Egyptian laws, as well as violating the Constitution of the Confederation of Arab Republics, the Arab League Charter and resolutions, the provisions of the Arab Boycott of the Zionist enemy, the collective Arab defense pact, Arab summit conference resolutions, the OAU Charter and the Islamic Conference resolutions.

The prosecution demanded the indictment of as-Sadat under the principles of the Islamic Shari'a, depriving him of his civil rights and all considerations, withdrawing his Egyptian citizenship and his right of being Arab, considering him a usurper of power since 18 November 1977 [the date of as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem], branding him with high treason for getting involved in the conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian question, and considering him a criminal for violating human rights.

The bill of indictment says that no Arab ruler or citizen has the right to dispose of Arab territory, which is a national property and a sacred trust. Any relinquishment of this territory is national treason.

Adopts Resolutions on Tunisia, USSR

LD131929Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Members of the permanent secretariat expressed great regret over the events which befell the sister country of Tunisia. As the freedom of the masses' action has become a basic issue that concerns the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf, and this is a factor for victory in our decisive battle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, all of us adopt a decisive stand on the side of the freedom of the trade union action and popular action and for the release of the detainees. Therefore, the secretariat resolves to send a delegation to Tunisia and to contact all parties so as to find out the truth. It recommends that a delegation from the unions of Arab jurists and lawyers be entrusted with the defense of the detainees.

In view of the strategic importance of relations with the Soviet Union and countries of the socialist community and the dangers these relations are being exposed to as result of the policy of an agent Arab regimes, at the forefront of which is as-Sadat's regime, and since the permanent secretariat is called upon to implement the resolution of the Arab popular conference to consolidate Arab-Soviet relations so as to provide a better position for the struggle of the progressive forces against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, the permanent secretariat has decided to contact the CPSU Central Committee in order to consolidate relations and to prepare for a visit to Moscow by an official delegation representing the secretariat.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM LAUDS FEDAYEEN RAID ON ISRAEL

ID151530Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Mar 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "Why Are Those Faces Happy?"]

[Excerpt] We feel proud and are overcome by the sense of one who has regained his soul after having been depressed with pain and psychological pressures, the pressures that made us almost lose hope in life and left us in a state of utter despair. It does not matter to us if Carter says about the [fedayeen raid] that it was a "senseless, barbaric operation." For Carter has said many words biased in favor of Zionist terror and taken initiatives and actions that reveal how quickly he is influenced and how biased he is in favor of Israel. Being so, he has no right to attack fedayeen action as such. The Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people of which Carter feels ashamed are accustomed to such biased stands in favor of Israel by American presidents.

Also, where was Carter when U.S.-made planes penetrated the northern borders of occupied Palestine and bombed unarmed civilians in camps with napalm, rockets, and fragmentation bombs? Carter's testimony of fedayeen action is biased and unacceptable. But we wish Carter would understand and realize that the theories on security which the successive Israeli governments use as an excuse are false theories which have been invented to justify aggression and usurpation and retaining other people's lands.

The Israeli Government might try to respond to domestic reaction to the fedayeen operation by further harping on the tune of security and preparing for a retaliatory operation that will have far reaching repercussions and propaganda impact, an operation similar to that of Entebbe or of assassinating the three Palestinian leaders in Beirut on 19 April 1972.

The coming Israeli strike will not be the first nor the last. The brotherly Palestinian people have become experienced in struggle and know how to deal with the enemy that created his existence on the land he usurped from them by force and terror.

All that we hope for is that these bright faces will keep their smiles and their vigor. This can be achieved only through more fedayeen operations on the Palestinian land where the Palestinian blood will mix with the Palestinian soil so that life will continue and light and hope will remain.

QATAR

ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON DENOUNCED

NC160951Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0818 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 16 March--The State of Qatar--amir, government and people--has denounced the blatant Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and has called on the Security Council, particularly the big powers who are permanent members of the council, to shoulder the responsibility for maintaining world peace and security.

The following is the text of the statement released by the office of the amir of Qatar this morning: The State of Qatar--amir, government and people--strongly denounces and expresses its deep anxiety over the blatant Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. This aggression is a new link in the chain of acts of aggression which Israel has systematically committed, violating by them the sovereignty of the Arab states without any regard to any legal, moral or human principles or to the world community's unanimous call on Israel to put an end to its ceaseless encroachment on the dignity of this community. The world community has upheld the charter of the UN organization--which is the supreme international organization of the world community--as the constitution that specifies the international behavior that must be followed in order to achieve its primary aim of maintaining world peace and security.

The State of Qatar strongly denounces the brutal Israeli military invasion of southern Lebanon and Israel's criminal attempt to wipe out the Palestinian revolution, which is exercising the legitimate right of self-defense and the right to recover its usurped homeland. In undertaking this attempt, Israel has not hesitated to kill innocent civilians and to displace women and children.

At the same time, the State of Qatar believes that it is about time for the Security Council--particularly the big powers who are permanent members of the council--to shoulder its main responsibilities of maintaining world peace and security as stipulated in the UN Charter. On behalf of the world community and in accordance with the UN Charter, the Security Council should work to take immediate and effective measures to stop this aggression, which constitutes overt and blatant violation of peace in the area and which consequently threatens world peace with dire consequences.

While calling on the Security Council to carry out its duty in accordance with the UN Charter and while appealing to all states to rally their efforts to bring about the immediate withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, the State of Qatar calls on the Arab nation to shoulder its joint responsibility in confronting this new, blatant Israeli aggression in one line and with one will until victory.

The people of Qatar, with all the resources at their disposal, extend full support to the fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian people, fully believing that falsehood will vanish and justice will one day prevail.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING APPEALS TO CARTER TO STOP AGGRESSION

LD151838Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Your Excellency U.S. President Jimmy Carter:

We call upon you to stop the flagrant aggression being waged by Israel against southern Lebanon, which defies the advice of Your Excellency and takes no heed of the efforts you are making to attain a just and lasting peace in this sensitive part of the world. Fearing the escalation of events and the extension of the scope of the trouble, we appeal to Your Excellency to give this question your deep attention and to check the aggressor and to continue your efforts for peace, because the opportunity which Your Excellency created will not return. Please accept my deep respect for your excellency.

Signed: Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud

ROYAL COURT ISSUES STATEMENT CONDEMNING ISRAEL

LD151844Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

["Text" of statement issued by the Royal Court of Saudi Arabia--read by announcer]

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia strongly condemns the treacherous Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon by units of the land, naval and air forces equipped with all types of destructive weapons, regardless of Israel's justification of this aggressive acation as retaliation for the action of a group of Palestinian fedayeen. Israel has usurped their homeland and rendered them homeless, and thus they prefer death in their homeland in order to waken human consciences and urge them to find a solution to their problem, which has been pending for a long time, in a spirit of justice and fairness.

This justification, which Israel uses as an excuse for its aggression, no longer deceives anyone. Israel's expansionist policy became clear to all when it placed a variety of obstacles and hindrances in the way of a just peace and the restoration of right. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia urges the conscience of the world to oppose this treacherous aggression in order to spare bloodshed and reach the just peace that everyone is seeking.

KING KHALID DENOUNCES ATTACKS ON LEBANON

LD152304Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz sent two cables to His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and to Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, denouncing the criminal attack which fraternal southern Lebanon and the camps of the Palestinian fedayeen have been subjected to by the Zionist enemy. Here is the text of the two cables:

His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Lebanese Republic, Beirut:

The treacherous attack launched by Israel on fraternal southern Lebanon, invoking imaginary justification, is but a chain in a series of attacks aimed at implementing its expansionist plans in the Arab countries. While strongly condemning this criminal aggression, we stand by fraternal Lebanon to repulse this aggression and preserve its sovereignty and its territorial integrity.

[Signed] Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Struggling brother, Yasir 'Arafat:

We condemn the criminal attack which the camps of the fedayeen and the refugees in southern Lebanon have been subjected to by the Zionist enemy who is implementing his expansionist plans, invoking various excuses, before the eyesand ears of all the world, disregarding the UN resolutions. We implore almighty God to give you his support and to help you to stand fast in the face of the [word indistinct] concentrated onslaught so that the aims of this bestial enemy will not be achieved; may God preserve you.

[Signed] Your brother Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

UAE

ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON DENOUNCED

NC160940Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 March--The UAE has strongly condemned and denounced the blatant Israeli aggression against Lebanon and has called on the peace-loving states, the world community and the UN secretary general to act to stop the Israeli military operations and to bring about the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces.

This came in a statement which was issued by the office of the UAE president this morning. The statement described the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon as a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and a blatant encroachment on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

YEMEN--YAR

OFFICIALS DENOUNCE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN152053Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] The cabinet held its periodic meeting at 0900 today under brother 'Abd al'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the Command Council and prime minister. The cabinet listened to a report from brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, foreign minister and head of the Yemeni side on the Yemeni-Saudi joint coordination council.

The cabinet also listened to the details of the blatant Israeli aggression against fraternal Lebanon to undermine its security and stability, violate its sovereignty and launch a war of annihilation against the Palestinian resistance movement. The cabinet delegated the brother foreign minister to call on the UN permanent delegates to meet to pave the way for a request to convene an emergency session of the Security Council to discuss the criminal Israeli aggression.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN151841Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brothers: We have just received the following: Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has declared that the large-scale Israeli aggression carried out against Lebanon by the land, sea and air constitutes a serious development in the course of developments in the Middle East area. It also constitutes a new Israeli violation of the provisions of the UN Charter and places a new obstacle in the way of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Kamil added: What aggravates the seriousness of the situation is that Israel's action, again on the road of aggressive operations, is aimed at killing Palestinians just because they are Palestinians. In other words, it is an organized operation to annihilate the Palestinian people. Furthermore, it is a blatant violation of the sovereign of a state which is a member of the United Nations.

Pointing out in this connection the seriousness of the contents of the statements made by the Israeli chief of staff about Israel's intentions to establish a so-called Israeli security belt inside a sector of Lebanese territory, Kamil added: Such action and aggressive concepts mean that Israel still thinks that Israeli security can be achieved through aggression, occupation and expansion and not through reaching a just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the UN principles and Charter and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The Egyptian foreign minister added: In light of the policy of the Israeli Government and its attempts to dictate interpretations of UN Security Council Resolution 242--interpretations not based on any logic or law--as well as its policy of the continued establishment of settlements and its aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people today, Egypt affirms that such events obstruct the efforts being made to establish peace and point to more dangerous possibilities in the future.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: In this connection, Egypt believes that the whole world, and the five big powers in particular, must shoulder their responsibilities to stop the Israeli aggression immediately and to act quickly to change the course of developments to the path of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on respect for the rights of the Palestinian people and on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied areas and its relinquishment of its aggressive and expansionist objectives.

Meets U.S., Other Diplomats

NC152033Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has stated that at noon today President Anwar as-Sadat explained to the Belgian minister of foreign affairs the developments in the Middle East situation. The president said the Israeli interpretation of UN Resolution 242 and its establishment of Israeli settlements on occupied Arab territories are obstructing peace in the Middle East area.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met this evening with the ambassadors of the United States, Britain and the FRG and the French charge d'affaires. After these meetings, his excellency said that the Arab Republic of Egypt is concerned about the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the Palestinian people. He said Egypt is making special contacts with the major powers in order to persuade them to intervene immediately to stop the aggression and secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Instructs UN Delegate

NC152046Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has sent urgent instructions to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, to coordinate with the Arab group at the United Nations in order to consider adopting the necessary measures to stop the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people, including convening the Security Council so that the international community and the five big powers will shoulder their responsibility toward the Israeli aggression. This aggression is considered a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the sovereignty of an UN member state and an attempt to annihilate the Palestinian people.

GHALI DISCUSSES ISRAELI ATTACK WITH AMBASSADORS

Receives Turkish Ambassador

NC152001Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with the Turkish ambassador in Cairo, (Fakhir al-Abuham), today. They discussed the serious situation resulting from the Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon. It has been learned that the Turkish ambassador expressed his country's concern regarding the Israeli military operation in southern Lebanon. The discussions also dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa and Middle East developments.

Receives Italian Ambassador

NC152005Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1928 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today discussed with Italian Ambassador in Cairo Gian Luigi Milesi Ferretti the serious situation in southern Lebanon and the results of the Israeli military operation in the area.

It has been learned that in his talk with the Italian ambassador, Dr Butrus Ghali pointed to the seriousness of this action, which does not serve peace. He also pointed out that the operation staged earlier by the Palestinian fedayeen illustrates that secure borders cannot be achieved by Israeli military fortifications and bases and occupation of land but by a total, just peace for the sake of which President as-Sadat took his initiative.

The discussions during the meeting also dealt with various matters of interest to the two countries, particularly in the Horn of Africa.

Receives Danish Ambassador

NC160130Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0016 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali tonight met with Danish Ambassador in Cairo Jorgen Korsgaard-Pedersen. They discussed the current situation in the Middle East, particularly the serious situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the Israeli aggression. Minister Ghali informed the Danish ambassador of Egypt's position and the contacts it is carrying out regarding the need for halting the Israeli aggression immediately and for Israeli military withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry will continue its contacts with the various states and international organizations in order to halt the aggression immediately and have Israel withdraw from southern Lebanon.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL

NC151731Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab Affairs and Foreign Relations Committee has issued a statement calling on all world parliaments to condemn the Israeli violations of the principles of international law and the UN Charter. The committee calls on all the parliaments to call on Israel to refrain from undertaking retaliatory operations because such operations violate all the legal and humanitarian principles and obstruct peace efforts. The committee calls on these parliaments to adopt a firm stand on any operations of this kind because such operations have a destructive effect that threatens the security of the area and the interests of all peoples aspiring for peace.

In its statement, the committee affirmed that Egypt has expressed its principled commitment to peace based on justice and that the Egyptian Government is exerting efforts to achieve this despite the fact that the other side is adopting an obstinate stand and r fuses to realize the consequences of frustrating the peace process in the area.

CAIRO MEDIA COMMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

Cairo Radio Commentary

NC151728Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman commentary: "Invasion of Lebanon--the Reality of the Palestinian People and Israeli Illusion"]

[Text] Southern Lebanon was subjected to a large-scale land, sea and air aggression by Israel early today. Palestinian sources have said that some 25,000 Israeli forces participated in the attack, while neutral sources have said that no less than 20,000 Israeli forces participated in the aggression. The Israeli defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman, has said that the attacking Israeli forces are large enough. This attack was expected because it was a retaliatory measure to which the Israeli authorities have resorted, as they have been accustomed to do in the past, in order to reply to the Palestinian operation involving the Israeli bus in Tel Aviv. The Israeli Government did not heed any of the appeals calling on it to make the reply to the Palestinian operation compatible with the peace efforts in the Middle East and with the realities of the situation in the area and not blindly follow the course of the vanquishing power.

The Tel Aviv bus operation has presented the Palestinian problem clearly and frankly. As long as Israeli policy deals with the Palestinian problem on a suppressive and racist basis and denies the Palestinian people's right to a homeland and to self-determination, as long as it treats them as second- or third-class citizens in accordance with the declared Israeli peace plan for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, then the Third World's natural reaction to such a situation is to resort to arms in order to restore its rights as long as it is not possible to restore them in any other way.

The serious matter here is that statements made by General Weizman and the Israeli chief of staff, Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, speak about the dream and illusion of exterminating the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

At this point it becomes clear to us that the impasse in which Israel finds itself regarding peace is as follows: On the one hand, Israel wants to live in the area within secure and recognized borders, and, on the other, it wants to remove an entire people from existence. This latter desire is the true essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of all the complications stemming from it. The desire to exterminate the Palestinian people from the face of the earth has caused a split among an increasing number of supporters of the Zionist movement, leading them to declare that efforts to eliminate a people's existence will not solve the Jewish problem. On the contrary, in the long run this desire will only result in moving the Jewish ghetto from Europe to the Middle East, without the Jews ever feeling that their problem has been solved, and as a result they feel they must offer themselves as sacrifices on the alter of Zionist dreams.

Thus, at a time when there are reports about a peaceful solution and the possibility of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and despite the fact that all the countries and peoples of the world are interested in putting an end to the explosive situation in the Middle East, Tel Aviv frankly announces by its current incursion into southern Lebanon and its determination to remain there indefinitely on the pretext of security and preservation of law and order that it is still far from comprehending the meaning of commitment and eagerness to establish peace in the area.

What attracts attention in this regard is the patience which the West in general, and the United States in particular, is showing toward the various irresponsible Israeli actions. These countries hastened to condemn the Palestinian operation, despite all the strong justifications for it, but the Israeli incursion into Lebanese territory has been going on for over 14 hours, and these countries are still maintaining silence, although there is no pretext that any discerning Israeli can accept as an explanation for the invasion.

Cairo has repeatedly and often cautioned Israel and the world about the seriousness of following a policy toward peoples based on force. Cairo has said that the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks are impossible under the umbrella of the sovereignty of the concepts prevailing at present in Israeli ruling circles. Cairo has called on the U.S. Government to follow the policy of balanced armament for the two sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict in order to deny Israel the possibility of following the policy of force toward the Arab peoples, particularly since sophisticated weapons make Israel more intransigent and obstinate instead of making it more disposed toward peace.

Maybe it would be useful to ask what the attempt to ignore the existence of the Palestinian people--or even more, the attempt to eliminate this people--who have rights like any other people on earth, will lead to. Actually, the best answer to this question--and maybe the only sound answer--is to cite the history of the 20th century, which has witnessed a number of conflicts between national movements and imperialist forces. Each time the imperialist forces have realized after huge losses that ignoring peoples is of no use and that it is wise and proper to recognize rights. The most recent example of this is the story of the Vietnamese war, which forced the biggest major power to recognize the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination and to rule themselves in the way they choose.

Will the Israeli Government hasten to realize the meaning of this lesson quickly or must it also go through the same bitter experiences? Will the West and the United States stand idly by or will they convey to Israel their experiences in dealing with national movements and the impossibility of eliminating their existence?

Press Comment

NC1603402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0112 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 March--The Cairo newspapers on Thursday highlight the reports on the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon, Egypt's condemnation of this aggression and its appeal to the big powers to intervene to halt it immediately. Tomorrow's issue of AL-AHRAM condemns the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. It says that Israel, using the logic of the Mafia, staged the biggest operation of revenge against the Palestinians by launching a land, sea and air attack on large parts of southern Lebanon under the pretext of crushing the hostile Palestinian elements which staged the bus incident in Tel Aviv.

The paper adds that Israel staged this operation even before the sound of warnings died down--warnings that the Israeli revenge operations could lead to a vicious circle of violence and counterviolence with Israel ignoring the voice of reason and refusing to heed the logic that would serve the cause of peace by proceeding to solve the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the crisis.

The paper adds that the excuses Israel is using to justify its aggression against Lebanon do not deceive anyone. Even if we were to concede that there are justifications for avenging the bus incident--although this is doubtful--that small incident cannot be compared with or justified by this large-scale operation through which, it appears, Israel aims to occupy more Lebanese territory and to violate its sovereignty.

AL-AHRAM concludes its commentary by emphasizing that Israel must realize that crushing the Palestinian presence in Lebanon will not eradicate the Palestinian cause or erase this cause from the Arab mind and conscience; nor will it lead to a change in the peace strategy, which requires a just solution to the Palestinian problem. AL-AHRAM says that it remains for world public opinion to very strongly denounce the acts of violence and aggression and terror Israel is committing under the guise of flimsy excuses.

AL-AKHBAR says that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon's aim at putting an end to the Palestinian people's cause and rights to their land, which Israel is occupying, by the mass annihilation of this people. The paper says that this aggression cannot be described as mere revenge for the Tel Aviv operation staged by the Palestinian fedayeen because the victims of the Israeli aggression include children, women and elderly people, who cannot be accused of having staged hostile operations deep inside Israel.

The paper adds that sacrificing the blood of thousands of homeless and peaceful inhabitants cannot be justified by calling it mere revenge for a fedayeen operation for which Israeli intransigence is considered primarily responsible. The Palestinian act of resistance was the result of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza sector and of Israel's insistence on denying the Palestinian people's national rights and their right to self-determination. The paper points out that it is on this basis that Israel is responsible for all the acts of violence and counterviolence--responsibility from which there is no escape whatever the justifications and excuses.

AL-AKHBAR says that when the ruling Israeli leadership decides to escalate the acts of violence and annihilation and destruction to the extent that it represents a portent of an all-out war in the Middle East, then it reveals more and more the true picture of Israeli peace.

The Israeli picture of peace is a peace based on the occupation of the territories of others by force and on the exploitation of incidents protesting the occupation to achieve more expansion in the Arab territories and to subject southern Lebanon to Israeli domination and to collectively annihilate the innocent inhabitants of that area.

AL-AKHBAR Comment

NC160632Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR says: What will happen after this attack on which Begin had insisted, refusing to listen to the call of reason and self-restraint? What benefits has he gained from this attack for Israel, or for Israel's security, as he calls it.

Menahem Begin was furious because 30 civilians were killed as a result of the fedayeen raid on Israel. He viewed this raid as a threat to Israel's security, but what does he have to say about the dozens, if not hundreds, of Israeli soldiers he lost in this attack. He also must have lost a number of civilians and must have suffered invaluable loss of equipment. All this has not achieved security for Israel, as Begin claimed. In fact, the reactions to the results of this attack will do more damage to Israel's security and to his so-called protection of Israel's security.

Addressing Menahem Begin, the paper says: The Israeli prime minister must realize that whatever the results of this Israeli attack, this will not be the end of the road and that his policy of violence is neither in his interests nor in the interests of Israel. If, as he says, he wants to establish Israeli security, the way to do it is not by resorting to tanks and planes, nor by land, air and sea mobilization. Quite the contrary, the way to achieve it is to respect right and justice and to give territory to those whose territory has been usurped. This is the only way to establish security for Israel. If Begin is still unaware of this fact, we hope he will comprehend it before it is too late.

Syrian Role Assailed

NC160827Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The Cairo newspapers this morning give prominence to the news of the large-scale Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. Under the headline "The Prisoners of the Red Line," AL-AHRAM's chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal says: When the Tel Aviv incident occurred, the whole world was certain that Israel would carry out a reprisal operation, and it was clear to everyone that the operation would be in southern Lebanon. Syria, however, remained silent and made no move. Only yesterday did they remember and wake up.

After the Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon in a manner that smacks of the intention to occupy and stay, the Syrian Ba'th Party came out with the announcement that Syria has decided to place a number of antiaircraft batteries at the disposal of the Syrian deterrent force to be used against Israeli attacks which may be launched against civilian populated areas.

Despite all former action against the resistance in southern Lebanon, the Syrian forces had never dared to cross the red line. Rather, they had avoided this line and turned on Tall az-Za'tar to participate in and contribute to the liquidation of the Palestinian camps.

Now the Israeli army has entered southern Lebanon with the declared intention of liquidating the Palestinian resistance, but Syria has not moved to fulfill the purpose for which it had occupied Lebanon. Is the Syrian presence in Lebanon meant only for the protection of the Palestinians from the Lebanese forces opposed to them--even this is a false impression--or is that presence for participation in the liquidation of the Palestinians by the Lebanese forces or the Israeli army?

What is strange is that the Soviet Union rushed to rescue its Ba'thist agents and involved itself in the events to cover up the attitude of the Damascus rulers. So TASS claimed that the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon was planned by Washington and Cairo. It relied in its claim on the presence of Israeli Defense Minister Weizmann in Washington on the eve of the aggression. Is anything more nonsensical than this, and can the Soviet Union be so naive?

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal affirms in conclusion that what is now happening in Lebanon clearly exposes the role being played in Lebanon by the Syrian Ba'thists, under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad, and their real intentions. This role is undoubtedly known to the Palestinian leadership, but this leadership has been unable to act and to distinguish its friends from its enemies.

Ahmad Zayn writes in AL-AKHBAR: Hafiz al-Asad has said more than once that only Syria is capable of confronting Israel. Yesterday, after the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, Al-Asad recoiled and did not open his mouth or make a sound while Damascus radio was carrying the Israeli statement affirming that this aggression did not concern Syria or the Arab deterrent forces and that it was aimed only against the Palestinians. Ahmad Zayn points out in his article that this statement, which Damascus radio repeated over 20 times, was tantamount to an order to the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon not to interfere at all.

He adds: Al-Asad, who committed horrifying massacres against the Palestinians in Tall az-Za'tar and other camps in Lebanon, killing their women and children mercilessly, using the deterrent forces, which are controlled by Syria and which in fact are comprised of Syrians; Al-Asad, who by the force of arms brought the Palestinians to southern Lebanon to face Israel alone in any battle while he stayed away behind the red line, which he had agreed with Israel not to cross; Al-Asad, who days ago threatened to attack Beirut with rockets and destroy entire areas; and Al-Asad, who flexes his muscles and kills Palestinians and Lebanese who disagree with him, is now a spectator watching the massacre, which he had planned for and which he facilitated. He had planned for it by striking at the Palestinian forces in Beirut and Lebanese towns, destroying them there and limiting their arms, and also by moving the Palestinians to southern Lebanon by force so that they alone would face Israel while he and his forces and armor hid behind this limited Palestinian force and stayed away from any confrontation with Israel.

Is it now not clear to the whole world that Syria is against the Palestinians and the PLO and that its policy is one aimed at annihilating the Palestinian people and occupying Lebanese territory? Syria fights to wipe out the Palestinians and the Lebanese Army and to shed Arab blood. It refuses, however, to fire one shot at any Israeli soldier.

Referring to the Soviet attitude toward the Israeli attack, the writer says: The Soviet Union, which only a week ago promised the Palestinians protection during talks at the highest level in the Soviet Union, now declares that it has nothing to do with this battle. It declares officially through its ambassador in Beirut that it has sent no arms to Lebanon, the Palestnians or any other side. The Soviet Union has forgotten all its promises and pledges and has turned its back on the battle as usual. It has dissociated itself from the Palestinians, whom it embraced a week ago.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. WARNS CONGRESS ON ARMS DEAL

NC151035Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Washington, 15 March--Egypt's Ambassador to the United States Ashraf Ghurbal has warned the U.S. Congress of the consequences of obstructing the proposed arms deal to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, affirming that this would constitute a serious setback.

At a luncheon hosted in his honor yesterday by the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR and attended by 30 prominent chief editors of American papers and magazines, the Egyptian ambassador emphasized that the proposed deal is a legitimate demand by Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He strongly rebutted the attempts made by the pro-Israeli pressure groups to foil the deal, saying that logic refutes the Israeli argument that American weapons would be offensive in the hands of the Arabs and defensive in the hands of Israel. He expressed his confidence that the Congress realizes the importance of approving this deal and the necessity of developing the ties of friendship existing between the United States and the Arab world.

Answering questions put to him by the editors of American newspapers and magazines the Egyptian ambassador said that he sensed from his contacts with congressmen that they understand President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative and that their attitude toward this initiative is positive. He added that at the same time he felt that they were worried about the attitude of Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, which, they believe, is not helping the peace process. He added that a large part of the American Jewish community and leaders have shared his feelings.

He said that during numerous conversations with the leaders of the Jewish community he sensed their anxiety about Begin's policy on the settlements in the occupied Arab territories and that they consider this policy to be unrealistic and to constitute an obstacle in the way of the great opportunity now available for establishing complete peace in the Middle East.

He expressed satisfaction with the positive U.S. response to President as-Sadat's call that the United States be a partner in the peace process in the area and with the fact that it is now actually taking part effectively in this process.

On Egypt's position on the question of a Palestinian state, Ambassador Ghurbal stressed that this position has not changed. He added that the setting up of such a state would serve the true and lasting peace being sought in the Middle East.

BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET VISITS EGYPT

Simonet, Kamil Talks

NC1?1853Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Henri Simonet held a meeting this evening. This meeting marks the beginning of official talks between Egypt and Belgium on international issues which concern the two countries, current developments in the Middle East, and Europe's role in giving an impetus to the current peace efforts.

Simonet Comments on Talks

NC1?2123Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 March--Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Henri Simonet has said that the talks he held with Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this evening were extremely fruitful and that they concentrated on the situation in the Middle East area. In a statement to MENA, the Belgian minister said that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained to him the latest developments in the situation in the area in light of the discussions which have taken place between Egypt and Israel, the Egyptian and international efforts in this regard as well as Egypt's position and principles regarding a comprehensive just peace in the area.

Henri Simonet said Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil emphasized to him Egypt's readiness to resume the peace discussions with Israel through the committees but on the basis that Israel must make clear to the world that it is also ready for a comprehensive, just peace and that it must take into consideration all the bases for this peace. At the end of his statement the Belgian minister affirmed his country's support for President Anwar as-Sadat's historic peace initiative. He said: My current visit to Egypt is an indication of our interest in President as-Sadat's initiative for peace in this area and the entire world.

Kamil Comments on Talks

NC1?2150Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil stated following the first session of talks held this evening with Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet that at this session they discussed relations between the two countries, the latest developments in the Middle East crisis, the importance of the role of the European and EEC states in promoting peace and providing a settlement for this crisis and the Belgian contribution to the European role.

Simonet Meets With Mar'i

NC141815Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--People's Assembly Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i affirmed during his meeting with Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Henri Simonet and the delegation accompanying him that many changes will take place in Egyptian policy in light of the results of the visit Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will make to the United States. During the meeting Mar'i reviewed recent developments in the area and their effect on peace. He also reviewed Arab questions in general and the Middle East question in particular and President as-Sadat's initiative and its effect on world peace.

The Belgian minister of foreign affairs arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit of several days at the invitation of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. After the meeting, Engineer Mar'i told MENA that Egypt expects positive results following Begin's visit to the United States. He added: Any delay of positive results will prompt Egypt to reconsider its possible future strategy.

Simonet Statement to AL-AHRAM

NC150918Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0757 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 March--Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet has affirmed that all Europe is following the current events in the Middle East with great interest in the wake of President as-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem. He said President as-Sadat's initiative is supported by all the peoples of the world because it will lead to peace, which concerns not only the Middle East states, but also the peoples of the world and Europe in particular.

In an exclusive statement published in the newspaper AL-AHRAM today, the Belgian foreign minister said secure borders do not come about by fortifications, military bases and the occupation of territories but by the establishment of peace, which is the only barrier against aggression. Simonet declared that UN Security Council Resolution 242--in form and substance--means that there should be a withdrawal from the four fronts--Sinai, the West Bank, the Golan and Gaza. He said there is no interpretation of this resolution other than this interpretation.

The Belgian foreign minister said that the directors of the foreign ministries' departments of the nine EEC states are now meeting in Copenhagen. Israel's request for the closure of PLO offices will be submitted to them. However, the closure of these offices will not help the situation in the Middle East but will exacerbate it further and will lead to the PLO's adopting a more intransigent stand.

The Belgian foreign minister said that he has decided to postpone his visit to Israel, which was scheduled to take place on 22 March, after Begin put his visit to the United States off until next week.

As-Sadat Receives Simonet

NC151535Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Henri Simonet this afternoon. Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil attended the meeting. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

Simonet, Kamil Statements

NC152051Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1951 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet left Cairo for Luxor today on a brief visit of several hours. Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, who saw the Belgian minister off, said that the large-scale operations the Israeli forces are now carrying out inside Lebanese territory will further complicate the situation and revive the hatreds President as-Sadat's initiative sought to eliminate to provide chances for the establishment of peace.

The foreign minister said that violence and the aggression that are taking place can only be ended by Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and the establishment of their state.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil pointed out that this is the only key to ending violence and terror because countering violence with violence will only lead to the generation of new violence, thus continuing the vicious circle.

Henri Simonet said before leaving that during his meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, he was completely convinced of President as-Sadat's initiative and the desire of the Egyptian side to follow up on all efforts aimed at establishing peace.

The Belgian foreign minister said: We will exert the utmost efforts to make it possible for the West European states to give an impetus to the peace process. He added that Egypt, during talks with the Belgian delegation, stressed two basic points for the achievement of peace: respect for Egyptian sovereignty and the solution of the problem of the occupied territories.

Simonet Meets With Ghali

NC152135Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2037 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has met with Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet to consult on the situation in southern Lebanon and discuss the necessary measures to halt the Israeli aggression. The Belgian foreign minister is scheduled to hold a meeting with the EEC states' ambassadors in Cairo at 0800 tomorrow before he leaves Cairo.

IDI AMIN ASKS FOR APRIL MEETING WITH AS-SADAT

NC150725Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Ugandan President Idi Amin has asked to meet President Anwar as-Sadat in Cairo to hold important talks with him pertaining to African topics. The newspaper says that the Ugandan president has proposed that the visit take place in the first week of April. He also proposed that the two presidents hold talks for 3 days, to be followed by an unofficial visit by the Ugandan president to Cairo. The newspaper adds that contacts are underway to fix the final date of the visit through the Ugandan ambassador in Cairo.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH FRG AMBASSADOR

NC141800Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil this afternoon met with the FRG ambassador in Cairo, Hans Georg Steltzer. The latest developments in the Middle East area in light of Egypt's efforts for a comprehensive and just solution to the problem were discussed during the meeting. It has been learned that the Egyptian ambassador drew the attention of the German ambassador to the gravity of any reprisal action Israel may carry out in reaction to the Palestinian operation. Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil also referred to Egypt's position, which was officially announced 2 days ago, regarding the need for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to be in the forefront of the subjects which the comprehensive and just solution must settle and the need for encouraging President as-Sadat's initiative to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

GHALI HOLDS MEETING WITH YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR

NC152003Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1714 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today continued the important consultations he has been holding with the ambassadors of the nonalined states regarding their stand on current international issues as well as on the preparations for the nonalined states' special coordination committee meetings, which are scheduled to be held in Kabul around the beginning of May, and the nonalined group ministerial council's meeting, which will be held in Belgrade in July.

Dr Butrus Ghali received Yugoslav Ambassador in Cairo Bozovic this afternoon. They reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East situation and Egypt's principled stand regarding a comprehensive, just solution to the Middle East problem, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state and a complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting, the minister of state for foreign affairs and the Yugoslav ambassador emphasized the importance of the nonalined group's role in the changing international circumstances as well as the positive role which the leading nonalined states can play in the establishment of the pillars of world peace.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with matters related to the nonalined group's special coordination committee meeting in Kabul as well as to the nonalined foreign ministers' meeting in Belgrade. The two sides also discussed subjects pertaining to the special session which the United Nations will hold in May on international disarmament in all aspects--a session which is to be held at the initiative of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and to which the nonalined group, including Egypt, give special attention.

It is worth noting that both U.S. President Jimmy Carter and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing as well as President Tito and a number of nonalined states' presidents have recently declared that they will attend the meetings of this session.

GHALI TO LEAVE FOR VISITS TO INDIA, SRI LANKA

NC152024Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1936 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 March--MENA has learned that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will leave Cairo for New Delhi on Friday, the day after tomorrow, beginning an important visit to India and Colombo. During his visit Dr Ghali will deliver messages from President Anwar as-Sadat to the presidents of the two states.

It has been learned that the visit falls within the framework of the contacts Egypt is making with leading members of the nonalined states group regarding the changing international circumstances and the positive role these states can play in establishing of the pillars of world peace. The visit is also within the framework of the special session the United Nations will hold in May on international disarmament in all aspects. The nonalined states, which called for the session, attach special importance to it.

MINISTER CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN151808Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1747 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--Iraq strongly condemned the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has said that this aggression is a criminal attack on peaceful civilians in Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages. The timing of this aggression, the minister said, is commensurate with the march of capitulation and the humiliating attitude of certain Arab regimes. This proves, the minister added, that the Zionist enemy--after usurping Palestine--is continuing its expansion and invasion while some people are under the illusion that there is hope for the achievement of a settlement of capitulation with the enemy. The minister announced that Iraq stands fully behind the Palestinian revolution and Lebanon in facing the Zionist aggression and called on the world community to condemn this crime which violates the sovereignty of an independent member of the United Nations. The minister said that this aggression is being perpetrated with the blessing and support of U.S. imperialism, which continuously supplies the enemy with arms and money and gives it the means to commit aggression and to expand.

Communist Party Statement

JN151951Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--The Iraqi Communist Party has described the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon as a new criminal act. In a statement issued tonight, the party Politburo said that the criminal act perpretrated by the Zionist rulers in Tel Aviv against Lebanon's security and sovereignty and against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and their liberation movement comes at a time when tension prevails in the Arab region as a result of the continued Zionist aggression and the denial of the rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to return to their homeland and to determine their destiny.

The party called on all the world progressive movements and organizations to support the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance against the genocidal aggression launched by the Zionist armed forces.

DELEGATE TO ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE RETURNS

JN151936Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 March--Mr Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Ba'th Party and of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference returned to Baghdad today from Tripoli after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference held recently in Tripoli.

Mr Haddad affirmed Iraq's unlimited support for the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement in their struggle against the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots. Haddad noted Iraq's efforts to preserve the security and integrity of Lebanon and to maintain its sovereignty and Arabism. Mr Haddad praised the resolutions and decisions of the permanent secretariat of the Arab popular conference concerning the trial of As-Sadat because of his betrayal of the Arab nation and its central cause, Palestine.

GOVERNMENT DENOUNCES ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON

JN152123Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] An official spokesman has announced that the Jordanian Government strongly condemns the serious Israeli aggression against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of fraternal Lebanon. The spokesman said that while following with great concern and profound pain the developments in fraternal Lebanon since dawn today, the Jordanian Government calls on the Arab nation to close its ranks and stand united to protect the Arab land and to maintain the level of responsibility and national trust necessary to face the dangers and challenges threatening the Arab nation's existence and future. The Jordanian Government, the spokesman added, calls on all countries to stand in the face of the Israeli aggression, which represents a blatant violation of international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

AD-DUSTUR: PALESTINIANS FIGHT; OTHER ARABS WATCH

JN160818Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Editorial: "The 15th of March 1978"]

[Text] Yesterday on Fatah land in southern Lebanon, the great Palestinian people fought alone, watched by the whole Arab nation, the biggest and fiercest battle against the Zionist enemy since the birth of the Palestinian revolution.

Yes, the 15th of March 1978 was and will remain the day of the heroic Palestinian fighter, who consecrated with blood, iron and fire the existence of the people of Palestine, who will never be exterminated, even if they have to fight alone, without supporters or protectors.

The glorious battle waged by the Palestinian strugglers yesterday was not only to defend themselves, their old people and widows in the camps, and the legitimate Palestinian right to oppose the enemy and to defend the remnants of the Arab nation's dignity.

The Palestinian fedayeen fought with a ferocity acknowledged by correspondents and observers. Even the enemy's war minister admitted that his forces were not on a military parade. The Palestinian fighters have proved how the Palestinian people can confront the enemy and defend their land when they hold weapons, even if these weapons are not equal to those in the hands of the enemy. This inequality did not dissuade those who fought the invaders, from street to street and house to house, from engaging in battle, ready to make sacrifices. They were not discouraged by the eyes gazing at them, some just watching and others looking fearful or gloating.

Our modern world respects those ready to sacrifice and to fight in defense of their right to live. Such is the world and such it will remain. The Palestinians have dealt with the Israeli aggressors in the only language the world respects.

Perhaps our Arab nation will be convinced, after all that has happened, that it has no choice but to fight, and perhaps it will not forget to bow in deference to the Palestinian fighters, if it can do nothing else. This is the least that can be expected.

PRESS ASSAILS ISRAELI ATTACK, LACK OF ARAB UNITY

JN160718Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's papers devote their editorials to the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

Writing on this subject, the newspaper AR-RA'Y comments as follows: Since midnight of 14 March 1978, Zionist rancor has been carrying out the largest and most voracious of invasions against anyone who is believed to have resisted or to be resisting Israel, and against anyone who is believed to have expressed or to be expressing sympathy toward any Arab confronting Israeli aggression. The continued acts of murder and annihilation that are being carried out by air, ground and sea forces throughout southern Lebanon and into the depths of Lebanon, including Beirut, unequivocally confirm that the objective of organized Zionist terrorism is to annihilate the spirit of resistance in the Arab arena and to force the Arabs to succumb to the policy of fait accompli.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR points out that the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon was launched in this manner because of the absence of a unified Arab stand as a result of the current division in the Arab arena. The paper adds that our division, weakness and lack of preparedness opened the side door through which the Israeli forces of aggression crossed to southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, the paper wonders: How long will the situation continue in this way? The paper answers: Until we manage to restore our pan-Arab matters to their proper place, until we manage to mobilize all our pan-Arab resources on the confrontation line with the Zionist enemy and until the time when we will spare nothing to defend Arab dignity and preserve Arab soil.

HUSAYN CONTACTS LEBANESE PRESIDENT SARKIS

JN152212Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn last night [15 March] contacted Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and was briefed by him on the latest develomments in fraternal Lebanon. His majesty also discussed with him various aspects of the current situation.

HUSAYN VISITS ARMY COMMAND, NORTHERN AREA

JN151616Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces this morning visited the general command of the armed forces. He was received by His Excellency Lt Gen Staff ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the armed forces; the chief of staff and his aides; the commander of the Royal Air Force; and the military secretary of his majesty and inspector general of the armed forces.

His majesty spent some time in the building of the general command, where he met with the senior commanders in the presence of Mudar Badran, prime minister and defense minister, and His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the royal court. After that his majesty, accompanied by the commander in chief, visited a number of military units in the northern area.

BEGIN'S REVEALING ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE REPORTED

NC152238Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Menahem Begin revealed Israel's intentions and objective in its military attack against southern Lebanon when he declared that the Israeli military forces will remain in the area they have occupied until an agreement is signed prohibiting the presence of the fedayeen in the area.

SPEAKER SAYS SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE CONVENED

JN151726Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1532 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut--Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, has declared that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies will hold a session tomorrow to be devoted to discussing the general situation in the country in light of the large-scale Zionist aggression on Lebanon. Following a meeting held this evening with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Al-As'ad said that the summoning of the UN Security Council to a meeting to discuss the Zionist aggression is very likely.

UN Delegate Delivers Note

NC152016Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, this evening handed UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim a message from the Lebanese Government giving details of the Israeli attack on Lebanon and condemning it. The message says that Lebanon reserves the right to call for a Security Council meeting in light of the Lebanese diplomatic contacts and the developments in the situation. Tuwayni will meet this evening with the president of the Security Council for this purpose.

MINISTER BUTRUS CONTACTS SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

NC151406Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus has stated that he contacted Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam by telephone this morning to discuss the latest developments of the situation in southern Lebanon.

Asked about the results of his meetings with the ambassadors of the big powers, Minister Butrus said: The matters I discussed this morning with the ambassadors of the big powers in Lebanon are not of the kind that could produce immediate results, because the subjects are thorny and important, as you know. There is room for consultations and further discussion to insure Lebanese interests and reach positions consistent with the requirements of the situation. All I can say today regarding the current events is that there is a flagrant Israeli aggression against Lebanese territory, which is strongly condemned by every sincere Lebanese citizen. There is no room for holding Lebanon responsible for any past action which may have taken place and of which Lebanon is accused of having a part in because this is absolutely not true. Lebanon alone is paying the heavy price for the actions and reactions of others. This is not fair. Lebanon cannot alone pay the price of an issue which is the concern of the entire area and the Arab world.

At any rate we cannot keep silent about the aggression carried out by Israel. Naturally we will keep the Security Council informed about the developments. We will continue our contacts and efforts. We will extend these contacts tomorrow to cover the ambassadors of the Arab states to make the necessary moves to put an end to these aggressions.

Asked about the results of the international contacts and efforts on which he was briefed by the ambassadors of the big powers in Lebanon, Minister Butrus said: They were unable to brief me about the results because we only discussed the issue today. I will be briefed about the results later. The meetings today were devoted to exchanging of views. On this occasion I sensed the interest of these states in everything affecting Lebanon. I also sensed that the continuation of the situation in a manner that does not take Lebanon's security situation into consideration is undesirable and can have no benefit, neither for the Lebanese nor for any other cause they foster.

Meets With Arab Ambassadors

NC161031Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Fua'd Butrus, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and minister of national defense, held a meeting at 1000 today with all the Arab ambassadors accredited to Lebanon to brief them on the present situation.

U.S. AMBASSADOR MEETS BUTRUS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC151340Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1245 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1245 today, Foreign Minister Butrus met with U.S. Ambassador Richard Parker. After the meeting the following dialog took place between Ambassador Parker and the representative of the Voice of Lebanon. [begin recording] [questions and answers in Arabic]

[Question] [words indistinct] The position of the U.S. Government which you conveyed to Minister Butrus today regarding the Israeli aggression?

[Answer] I have no comment or statement. [several words indistinct]

[Question] What is the stand of the United States on the aggression?

[Answer] The stand of the United States is the stand we declared yesterday. A statement will be issued today.

[Question] Is there a message for the U.S. Government?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Will the U.S. Government carry out new contacts regarding the situation?

[Answer] Naturally, the contacts are continuing.

[Question] Do you expect a cease-fire?

[Answer] God willing.

[Question] Within 24 hours?

[Answer] (?of course).

SARKIS MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS

NC161027Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] At 0915 today President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss to follow developments of the second day of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

AL-JUMAYYIL ON ISRAELI ATTACK, PALESTINIANS' BEHAVIOR

NC151750Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Commenting on the Israeli attack against southern Lebanon, Pierre al-Jumayyil told reporters today that such a surprise attack was anticipated since all signs indicated it would happen. He said: We have warned several times of the dangers and reaction by Israel against this dear part of our homeland as long as the armed Palestinian concentrations, which moved from the mountain area to the south about 2 years ago, continue to carry out anomalous practices and pressure upon the border villages and their inhabitants.

Moreover, they have been provoking the Israelis to endanger Lebanon and the Lebanese. Such practices have subjected the south to danger at every moment, as though they deliberately and determinedly sought to harm us and to transfer the battle to our frontiers and territory, which we have been able to protect through our international friendship, while Arab states which are stronger than us in number and equipment lost parts of their territory, which they are still trying to restore and liberate.

Through our friendship with foreign countries we have been able to make the Israeli forces which occupied some of our villages in the south some years ago withdraw within 48 hours. While the Arab states are deploying their military energy and material and diplomatic capabilities to oust Israel from the occupied territory, we see that some people in the south--for reasons of no interest to Lebanon, the Palestinians and all the Arabs deliberately allowed (ya'midu) the Israelis to enter our territory. We fear that such reckless actions will draw the Arabs into a new war starting from southern Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil added: How many times have we warned and declared that agreements should not be concluded between a state and fedayeen organization. The fedayeen action would subsequently become a purely military one, not an action which is characteristic of the fedayeen. It appears that Lebanon is destined, against the will of its sons, to pay a high price from its life, stability, territory, sovereignty, economy and interests of its sons and people.

We ask: Who is responsible for the events in southern Lebanese territory? Is it the Palestinians who moved to this area to turn it into an armed struggle arena? Is it some Arab states that failed to use their influence sufficiently to check the Palestinians' behavior and their anomalous actions against Lebanon and the Lebanese and against the Arab questions in general? Is it some of the Lebanese who failed to adopt our stand, join our voice and be frank with others as we have done? Through their [the Palestinians] behavior they violated territory, homes and sovereignty. They forced the people to vacate their homes, persisted in destroying the safety of Lebanon and subjected Lebanon's border to Israeli attacks. Thir was the result of their provocations along the border and fedayeen operations within Israel and their provocative statements issued in the Lebanese capital, thus rendering Lebanon responsible while Lebanon is still suffering from the ordeal they planned for it.

Al-Jumayyil asked whether Lebanon's destiny will continue to depend upon the will of non-Lebanese and to be used by armed strangers as they wish. Lebanon will continue to revolve in a vicious circle because the Lebanese will not agree on the fateful affairs of its homeland. The time has come to pose the question in a decisive way: Do some Lebanese still agree to what the Palestinians were doing in Lebanon, subjecting its territory and people to various tragedies and dangers? Do they oppose such behavior and methods? They should say this today, not tomorrow.

He concluded: Here lies the essence of the question; otherwise it will be futile to propose principles for detente. There will be no value in any peace, charter or detente if the territory remains subjected to danger, the people disturbed and the authority reeling at the mercy of events.

AL-JUMAYYIL HOLDS MEETINGS ON CURRENT SITUATION

With Lebanese Command

NC151855Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The unified Lebanese command held a meeting tonight under the chairmanship of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil with all members attending. The command will review the situation arising from the successive Israeli attacks since dawn today. The unified command was still in session when this report was prepared.

With U.S. Ambassador

NC151857Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil met this afternoon with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker at the home of Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil to discuss the current situation.

SHAM'UN, BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL MAKE STATEMENTS

NC152037Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Commander of the unified Lebanese forces Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, accompanied by a delegation of the command, visited Pierre al-Jumayyil to review all aspects of the situation, particularly the military aspects. The delegation later went to the home of former President Camille Sham'un, with whom a 90-minute meeting was held to discuss the entire situation.

After the meeting Camille Sham'un said: We are studying all aspects of the situation. It appears that there is a barrier between us and the officials. If they want to resolve the question by themselves, then they must bear the responsibility. He added: I think that the Lebanese national leadership's indifference is not a sound course to follow in dealing with the current aggression, its implications and repurcussions. Asked whether the Lebanese forces have adopted measures in this respect, Sham'un said: No, we are still watching the situation.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil said: We met with Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un in order to consult on various aspects of the current situation, particularly regarding the part for which we are responsible. The commander of the unified Lebanese forces stressed that the command is watching the situation closely.

ISLAMIC GROUPING MEETS, ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS

NC152258Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Islamic grouping and the front for safeguarding the south held an extraordinary meeting Wednesday evening to review the situation in light of the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

The following resolutions were announced after the meeting:

1. To urge all Lebanese to confront this critical situation with unity of ranks, voice and national responsibility.

2. To denounce the oppressive Israeli aggression on the Lebanese state, the violation of its sovereignty and of all international concepts.

3. To demand that the Lebanese authorities call for an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council to stop the aggression, make the aggressor withdraw and adopt deterrent measures.

4. To call upon the Arab states to assume their complete responsibility, support Lebanon and work on the Arab and international levels for the entry of the Arab deterrent forces into the south and up to the border until the Lebanese regular forces can be deployed there.

5. To call upon our brothers and kinsmen in the south not to allow the enemy to achieve his aim of the forcible evacuation of citizens.

IRAQI BA'TH LEADER, AL-MURABITUN OFFICIALS MEET

JN151633Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, met in Beirut today with Samir Sabbagh, deputy chairman of the Command Council of the al-Murabitun movement, and Sinan Barraj, member of the movement's Command Council. The meeting reviewed the situation in Lebanon in light of current developments. Comrade 'Aziz emphasized the clear and principled stand of the Ba'th Party regarding the situation in Lebanon and affirmed the party's support of the attempts to reach a solution to the Lebanese issue. Comrade 'Aziz expressed the party's backing for the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian resistance in facing the Zionist aggression in southern Lebanon.

BEIRUT RADIO ISSUES REPORTS ON BATTLES, MOVES

Syria Supplies Air Defense

NC151559Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1551 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The military spokesman of the Arab deterrent forces has stated the following: In view of the continuation of the Israeli forces' operations and in view of the possibility of repeated attacks on civilian concentrations, the Arab deterrent forces have requested that sufficient air defense capabilities be put at their disposal to confront possible air attacks. Syria has complied with this request.

Deterrent Forces' Communique

NC151629Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Arab deterrent forces command has issued the following communique:

Since dawn today the Israeli enemy has been carrying out a military offensive against southern Lebanon, using armored, air, and naval forces. Despite the fact that they are not present in the area, the Arab deterrent forces command has learned that by 1300 today the Israeli enemy was able today to reach the following villages: Ibil as-Saqy and Blat in the eastern sector; Bayt Yahun in the central sector; Al-'Izziyah in the western sector.

Continuing its military operation against Lebanon, Israeli air force planes attacked Ad-Damur at 1315 for about 20 minutes. At 1410 today they attacked Burj al-Barajinah camp and Al-Uza'i area in southern Beirut, where civilian concentrations exist. The attack lasted 10 minutes. Ground defenses intercepted the raiding planes, as stated by the military spokesman of the Arab deterrent forces command. Five people were killed, 19 were injured, 15 houses were destroyed, and a number of vehicles were hit as a result of the two raids.

The deterrent forces command has no information on the losses and the progress of the battle in the south. The Arab deterrent forces command appeals to all citizens to exercise self-restraint, keep calm, avoid armed manifestations and give the Arab deterrent forces the chance to carry out their duties to preserve the security of citizens and their property and the security of official institutions and public utilities in the areas for whose security the forces are responsible. It calls on all citizens to carry out their duties as usual unless advised otherwise by the command.

Israeli Air Raid

NC151316Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1310 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Israeli planes this afternoon raided the town of Ad-Damur for 40 minutes. Five planes also bombed the camps of Sabra and Burj al-Barajinha for about 8 minutes.

Airport Open

NC151415Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A responsible source of the Civil Aviation Administration says that the Beirut International Airport is functioning normally and no stoppage has taken place in air traffic today. Airplanes are landing and taking off this afternoon as usual. A Middle East Airlines plane, coming from Milano, landed at the airport a few minutes ago.

Refugee Camps Not Attacked

NC151523Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Regarding the military situation up to 1600 today, the reports received from southern Lebanon say that the intensity of the clashes has eased, apart from the clashes taking place on the At-Tayyibah-Al-Khiyam axis, where violent battles are still going on. Israeli forces, which entered Lebanese territory at midnight last night, were still present in the areas from An-Naqurah up to Al-'Urqub. Israeli planes continued to attack the central sector of the border area. They also flew over other areas. It has been learned this afternoon that the Israeli planes did not attack the camps of Burj al-Barajinah and Sabra near Beirut today but flew over them, causing ground defense to open fire on them. It has become clear that the Ad-Damur and Al-Uza'i areas on the sea shore were the areas which came under air attack.

Israeli Plane Hit

NC1515l4Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have now received the following: A military spokesman of the Arab deterrent forces has stated the following:

At 1315 today groups of Israeli planes attacked civilian population concentrations in Ad-Damur. The air defense intercepted them and hit one of them.

Clashes Continuing

NC1604l4Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0420 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Despite Israeli Chief of Staff Gur's announcement that the essential operations of the Israeli army in southern Lebanon have ended, reports received this morning indicate that the clashes are continuing and confirm the continuation of the offensive and indiscriminate air attacks.

Further Report

NC160516Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Despite the claims by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Israeli Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur that the military operations have ended, the large-scale Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon is continuing for the second day. The latest reports from the south say that the violent clashes continue on several axes. According to the reports, the Israeli Air Force, in addition to armored vehicles, gunboats and various weapons, is being used in the clashes.

The continuation of the Israeli attack and the attack on civilians has provoked a wave of indignation throughout the world. Lebanese officials are continuing their activity on all levels and are taking the necessary measures to put an end to the Israeli attack.

Israeli Planes Strafe Positions

NC161023Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] News agency reports say that Israeli aircraft this morning strafed At-Tiri area near the town of Bint Jubayl and At-Tayyibah area near Marj 'Uyun. They also bombed the Ar-Rayhan woods near Al-'Ayshiyah. Artillery fire exchanges also continued to be heard in the areas close to Bint Jubayl and At-Tayyibah. However, no significant military operations were reported in the area this morning.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS FURTHER ON BATTLES

NC151303Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] The latest military reports indicate that the shelling of the areas of Al-'Urqub, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, An-Nabatiyah and Kafr Tibnit is continuing from the air and sea and that Al-Qulay'ah in the western Al-Biqa', At-Tayyibah and Al-'Izziyah have fallen to the Israelis. The Israeli forces advanced inside Bint Jubayl and the city fell. Battles are now taking place on the hills of At-Tiri, Mas'ud and [word indistinct]. All inhabitants of Tyre city have been evacuated. There were 35 dead.

We received a report a short while ago indicating that the Israeli forces have captured the entire eastern sector. They shelled Al-'Urqub [word indistinct]. The Israelis seized Jisr al-Khardil by way of Marj 'Uyun. They have also placed under control the Palestinians' supply route by way of Al-'Urqub on the Tallat Balat-Ibl as-Saqi axis.

Violent battles are now taking place near Al-Qantarah town and Bayt (ash-Shaykh). An observer who has followed the progress of the battles with binoculars said that there are many casualties among both sides and that flames are engulfing farms, damaged tanks and vehicles. There have been no military operations in Sidon so far. The town has not been subjected to any she_ling.

Quoting informed sources, the news agencies report that the Israeli forces have swept the villages of Bint Jubayl and Marun ar-Ra's, and seven other villages have fallen in the hands of the Israeli forces. These villages are: (Tahmur), (Yahmur), Al-Qulay'ah, (Lisa), (Ityan), Ibl as-Saqi and An-Naqurah.

A Palestinian source has been quoted as saying that the Israeli Air Force has bombed the camps of Ar-Rashidiyah, Burj ash-Shamali and (Al-Basl) in the [word indistinct] Tyre port. It has been learned that the military leaders of the various PLO groups are holding continuous meetings under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat in one of the camps in Beirut. It was reported a short while ago that armed Palestinian concentrations were seen along the main road in Ad-Damur town and that the Israeli forces shelled Ad-Damur for 20 minutes. The results are not yet known.

Israeli planes flew over the areas of Sabra and Al-Fakhani in the suburbs of Beirut at 1400 today. The sound of anti-aircraft artillery, believed to be Palestinian artillery, was heard.

Israeli Planes Attack

NC151245Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1235 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just received the following: Israeli planes a shortwhile ago attacked the Al-Awza'i area along the coastal area known as the beaches area, and the Burj al-Barajinah area. This attack came a few minutes after an attack on the areas of Sabra and Shatila. Thick smoke was seen rising from some of the places which came under attack.

Beirut Airport Closed

NC151248Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1240 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just received the following: Flights at Beirut airport have been suspended as a result of the Israeli air attack on the areas of Al-'Awzai'i, Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra and al-Fakihani.

Planes Attack Other Targets

NC151314Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1255 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have received the following: A short while ago Israeli planes attacked three places in Ad-Damur while they were on their way back to Israel from their raid on Al-Fakihani, Sabra and Burj al-Barajinah. These planes also attacked the area of An-Nabi Yunus in Al-Jiyah.

Israeli Forces Overrun Villages

NC151401Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1350 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Israeli forces have so far overrun the villages of Bint Jubayl, Marun ar-Ra's, At-Tayyibah, Al-Khiyam, Ibl as-Saqi, An-Naqurah, Lusi, and Al-Qulay'ah in the south and the village of (Qlayya) in the western Al-Biqa'.

The shelling of Al-'Urqub, Rashayya al-Fukhkhar, An-Nabatiyah and Kfar (Salim) is continuing. It has been reported that the casualties are estimated in the hundreds.

Planes Attack Ad-Damur

NC151416Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1406 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1330 today, armed concentrations were seen in Ad-Damur and on the main road. Israeli planes were seen bombarding Ad-Damur for about 20 minutes. These planes then flew toward Sidon and on their way they attacked An-Nabi Yunis locality in Al-Jiyah area.

Raid Kills 6, Wounds 25

NC151423Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1416 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Preliminary results of the Israeli raid on Al-Awza'i area are 6 Palestinians killed and 25 others wounded, who were removed to Al-Quds and 'Akka hospital in 'Aramun.

Israeli Forces Control Areas

NC151549Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1528 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have just heard from the south that a short time ago the Israeli forces were in control of the Marj 'Uyun-Tallat an-Naqqash axis and captured the Bargash-Tallat Balat axis and the heights of Suq al-Khali.

Villages Captured; Barricades in Beirut

NC152009Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Reports from the south indicate that about 10 villages were captured by the attacking Israeli forces, four villages were captured in western Al-Biqa', and supply routes were cut off between western Al-Biqa' and the south on one hand and Al-'Urqub on the other.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Palestinians and Al-Murabitun [military wing of the independent Nasirite movement] have set up barricades in certain areas in the western area of Beirut, extending from the Al-Awza'i area to the officers club and 'Ayn al-Muraysa.

Artillery Battles Continuing

NC151958Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The precise results of the battles which have raged since midnight last night are unknown. Land battles are continuing in villages in the depth of southern Lebanon. Reports say that the Israeli forces are firing flares over the battle areas while intensive artillery fire continues to be heard along most axes.

Further Report

NC152041Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 2015 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that the Israeli forces are holding their positions in the An-Nabatiyah area and that intermittent artillery fire is continuing to this hour. The people in Sidon saw fire raging in various places, particularly in the An-Nabatiyah area.

Clashes Continuing

NC152218Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Twenty-four hours after the start of today's events, reports indicate that clashes are continuing in spite of the claim by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Israeli Army Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur that the main military operations have ended.

Further Report

NC160535Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The shelling of An-Nabatiyah and Arnun continued throughout the night. Many Israeli flares were fired over the border area. Israeli mechanized vehicles and armored cars could be seen moving along the route leading to Tyre and Ar-Rashadiyah. This movement was accompanied by a sea advance by Israeli boats in the direction of Tyre, Sarafand and Sidon. Israeli warplanes overflew Al-Biqa' at about 2200 yesterday. Israeli aircraft again made further overflights over the south at dawn.

The sound of artillery fire could be heard in the southern axes throughout the night. A fire broke out during the night in the suburbs of Tyre. It has been reported that 13 persons were killed. In western Al-Biqa', the artillery bombardment continued. The battles intensified at dawn.

The governor of Al-Biqa' last night denied reports about the occupation of Al-Qir'awn Lake and Al-Litani Bridge.

Palestinian Radio Station Destroyed

NC160650Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The removal of debris in Al-Awza'i area is continuing. Nine bodies were found last night under the debris of a three-story building. Three other bodies are still buried under the debris. The civil defense organs are still searching for these bodies. According to preliminary reports, the 12 dead belong to Harfush, Matta and Matar families.

It has been learned that Israeli aircraft bombed this building because it housed a Palestinian radio which was transmitting from there yesterday but later ceased to do so. The Israeli surveillance organs found out about the radio which Israeli aircraft bombed, destroying 50 houses in addition to the building housing it. It has been reported that the Palestinian radio was operating from an area in Al-Awza'i known as the Mudawwrah area.

Israeli justified the bombing of Al-Awza'i last night by claiming the existence of a Palestinian maintenance base in the area. According to reports from the south this morning, the Israeli movements are continuing along the five axes and some villages have fallen in the early hours this morning.

Fall of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar

NC160655Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Rashayya al-Fukhkhar fell to the Israeli forces at 0730 today. The battles intensified on all axes at 0730 today. Israel called these operations mopping-up operations. It is also reported that two bridges along the supply route in the south have been blown up.

Renewal of Clashes

NC160837Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The clashes were renewed on all southern axes this morning and intensified at about 0600. The Israeli forces blew up two bridges along the supplies route in the eastern sector. Rashayya al-Fukhkhar township fell to the Israelis. The artillery shelling of An-Nabatiyah and Arnun and of the route leading to Tyre and Ar-Rashidiyah continued throughout the night. A fierce battle took place in the At-Tiri area in the south this morning.

Fighting Intensifies

NC161249Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 16 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The intensity of the battles in the south increased this morning. Israeli aircarft overflew and bombed several places in the south. The stream of evacuees continued to flow into Sidon and elsewhere.

News dispatches say that Israeli warplanes bombed Al-Burghuliyah, 'Abbasyiyah and (Tabrihah) this morning and several times overflew 'Ayn al-Hulwah near Sidon in a way which prompted the civil defense to vacate the houses and take children, women and aged people to the shelters. At 1330 today Israeli aircraft overflew 'Ayn al-Hulwah again and turned south.

The attacking Israeli forces resumed the bombing of positions in 'Arab Salim, Arnun, Al-Khardali and An-Nabatiyah. The aircraft resumed their bombing of At-Tiri township at 0600 today. Antiaircraft artillery opened their fire on the raiding planes. Reports say that large concentrations of the Israeli army are still carrying out operations, described by the Israeli command as mopping up and searching for fedayeen, 8 km inside Lebanese territory.

Foreign correspondents report that Israel has announced 11 soldiers killed and 57 more wounded, 39 seriously. The Palestinian resistance has said it has lost 100 dead. Some foreign correspondents say that the Palestinian losses are more than 300 dead and that the total casualties are more than 1,200.

BAGHDAD INA ISSUES REPORTS ON FIGHTING

Sabra Bombed; Plane Downed

JN151245Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Columns of fire and smoke were seen rising over the Sabra camp where scores of bombs fell. It has been learned that an Israeli plane was shot down over the Al-Jiyah area, 16 km south of Beirut.

Burj al-Barajinah Camp Strafed

JN151253Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Three enemy Skyhawk planes have strafed the Burj al-Barajinah camp, in the southern suburb of Beirut.

Civilian Targets Strafed

JN151307Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Zionist planes have dropped some bombs on the Al-Uza'i area, Beirut's southern entrance, after they had been confronted by the ground resistance in Sabra and Burj al-Barajinah camps. The Zionist planes managed to strafe certain civilian targets in the camps and Al-Uza'i area, which is being populated by evacuees from Beirut's eastern area.

Beirut Airport Closed

JN151308Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--Beirut International Airport was closed at noon today after certain areas of Beirut were strafed by the Zionist air force.

Further Report on Strafing

JN151426Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1413 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The air raids against the Palestinian camps and the southern suburbs of Beirut lasted for 10 minutes. After that the enemy planes withdrew to the south toward occupied Palestine. Palestinian resistance sources said a little while ago that enemy planes repeated their bombardment of Palestinian concentrations in the city of Ad-Damur.

A correspondent who toured the areas which have been shelled told an INA correspondent that the morale of the fighters is very high. A large number of the fighters were seen helping evacuate women and children from the camps. The fighters were using personal vehicles to assist ambulances move the wounded to hospitals in Beirut where a state of emergency has been declared.

Vehicles of the joint forces patrolled the streets urging calm and giving instructions to citizens in case the aggressive raids were renewed. The Voice of Arab Lebanon radio broadcast urgent appeals to citizens to donate blood to save the wounded. There are yet no confirmed reports on the losses from the Zionist aggression in the Lebanese capital. Losses in the south are hard to estimate. However, it seems that there have been large casualties among civilians.

Israeli Casualties

JN151713Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--The ground defenses of the joint forces in the southern Lebanese town of Tyre downed another Israeli plane this afternoon and it was seen falling in flames inside occupied territories. Military reports say that battles slackened in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon but continued to be heavy in the other sectors. The joint forces sources said that the Zionist forces suffered heavy losses in men and equipment, estimated at 10 vehicles and 300 killed or wounded.

The INA correspondent in Tyre says the enemy bombarded Tyre port from the air and from the sea. The enemy also shelled nearby the camps of Ar-Rashidiyah, Al-Buss and Burj ash-Shamali. The enemy has been shelling these camps continuously since 1330 today, the correspondent added. The correspondent added that the enemy shelling killed or wounded at least 40 inhabitants. A number of those hit are still buried under the debris. The correspondent said that 30 people have been injured elsewhere and have been taken to Sidon hospitals.

In Beirut 35 citizens were killed or wounded, especially in the Al-'Uza'i area which has been savagely shelled. A bakery was hit in the area and collapsed over its occupants. The Lebanese Red Cross society has called on the citizens to donate blood to save the wounded as a result of the Israeli raids. Centers have been established to rehabilitate those who fled the southern region and to give them necessary aid. The Health Ministry has called upon the hospitals to admit all cases without exception.

Roundup Report 0950 GMT 15 March

JN152039Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 15 March--With the onset of darkness, enemy planes disappeared from Lebanon's airspace after launching well over 100 sorties during which they bombarded the southern sectors along the border strip and the four coastal cities of Tyre, Ad-Damur, Al-Jiyah and Beirut. As of 1800 today military operations have been limited to artillery shelling. New enemy vehicles are deployed along a 100-km front extending from An-Naqurah in the west to the foothills of Mount Hermon in the east.

In light of the conflicting military reports from the southern area, it is difficult to define precisely the final fighting positions, particularly since the battles are continuing in most of these areas. Nevertheless, it can be said that the Zionist incursion, in which all branches of the Zionist army participated, has failed after 18 hours of fighting to achieve the aim drawn up by the enemy defense minister; that is, to control an area that extends 10 km inside the Lebanese border so as to strike at the positions of the joint forces once and for all, as he put it.

The enemy managed to gain control of a long belt of villages at a depth of 2-3 km. This area, however, was lost militarily before the incursion. This area runs from the coastal city of An-Naqurah in the west to Ibl as-Saqy in the eastern sector.

The villages of At-Tayyibah, Marun ar-Ra's, Kawkaba, Al-Khiyam and Bint Jubayl were among the important villages that have been occupied by the enemy forces after ferocious fighting, during which the fighters of the joint forces confronted enemy tanks with light arms and destroyed 30 enemy vehicles. Bint Jubayl recorded the most splendid epic when the enemy soldiers were fought in hand-to-hand combat [words indistinct].

The enemy has admitted the ferocity of the resistance with which his forces were faced, forcing him to deploy more vehicles and use his air force to provide protection for his brigades which were advancing slowly. The enemy landing operations near Tyre, during which the enemy deployed his marines against Al-'Izziyah and (Al-Hafawiyah), was a painful blow to the enemy. A large part of this force was annihilated in a series of attacks launched by the joint forces throughout the day. This forced the enemy to call for the assistance of his air force, which bombarded the city harbor and the Ar-Rashidiyah, Al-Buss and Bur ash-Shamali camps. He also called for the assistance of his gunboats, which used their shelling to cut off supply lines.

The enemy also failed to breach and "clean up" the entire border strip. The joint forces continued to fight in mobile operations from their advanced positions in Al-'Urqub. This fighting is expected to expand and assume the form of intensive attacks during the night.

The enemy is now trying to cut off the supply lines of these forces. Armored columns have been sent in the direction of Hasbayya. However, the difficult terrain in that region is advantageous to the movement of the joint forces fighters who are continuing to receive supplies uninterruptedly.

It seems that the next few hours will be decisive. Although the Zionist force is largely superior in (?vehicles) and men, its ability to move is limited before the small and fast-moving armed groups, particularly at night when the air force--the most important enemy weapon--is out of action.

There are as yet no definite casualty figures. It is certain that the casualties are mainly Lebanese and Palestinian civilians who were surprised by the enemy planes and artillery in their villages and towns. Reports speak of [figure indistinct] wounded or killed. The joint forces have not yet said anything about their losses.

Attack on An-Nabatiyah, At-Tiri

JN160740Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--At 0630 hours, the enemy shelled the joint forces' positions near An-Nabatiyah town. The INA correspondent in the south said that the joint forces are dealing equal blows to the enemy. The correspondent added: At 0750 hours, enemy fighter planes raided At-Tiri town and the surrounding hills in the central sector near Bint Jubayl in order to pave the way for the advance of the Zionist ground forces on this axis. Air strafing was still in progress up to 0830 hours.

Reconnaissance Sorties Over Camps

JN160850Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--The INA Beirut correspondent has stated that between 0500 and 0800 hours today enemy air force made reconnaissance sorties over the Palestinian camps in Beirut.

The Palestinian military spokesman said that at dawn today the joint forces shelled the enemy's rear concentrations with heavy rockets. The targets received direct hits and columns of fire and smoke were seen rising over these positions.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN SUMS UP FIGHTING IN SOUTH

JN160937Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--In a late report about the military operations up to 1030 hours, the Palestinian military spokesman said that the Zionist enemy is trying to advance on all axes, particularly in the eastern sector, to occupy the positions and hills surrounding Rashayya al-Fukhkhar and Marj 'Uyun. Enemy helicopters are transporting a large number of infantry. The enemy is also massing tanks and vehicles in this area. It seems that the enemy is trying to infiltrate the area northeast of Marj 'Uyun in order to control the communication routes there.

In the central sector the enemy fighters planes continue to raid At-Tiri town, north of Bint Jubayl, which has been exposed to shelling by tanks since last night.

Denies Israel Occupies 10 Km

JN161008Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 16 March--The Palestinian military spokesman has denied that the Zionist enemy has occupied 10 km in Lebanese territory during the operations the enemy carried out during the past 24 hours in southern Lebanon.

The spokesman said that the maps published in certain Lebanese papers today about the positions that have been occupied by the enemy are not accurate. These represent only what the enemy hopes to achieve in his aggression.

AIR SUPPORT PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF DETERRENT FORCES

JN151602Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1549 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Brother citizens: We have just received the following: A military spokesman in the Arab deterrent forces has stated the following: In view of the continued acts by the Israeli forces and the possibility of recurring shelling of civilian concentrations, the Arab deterrent forces have asked that air support [Majhud Jawwi] be placed at their disposal as of noon today in order to use it in confronting possible shelling operations. Syria has agreed to this request.

The military spokesman earlier stated the following: At 1400 today a group of Israeli planes strafed concentrations of civilians south of Beirut and in ad-Damur. Air defense fired on them and hit a plane.

SYRIANS REPORTEDLY PATROL SYRIAN, LEBANESE AIRSPACE

NC152128Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 15 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Damascus, Beirut, 15 March--SANA reported today that Damascus has placed its air forces [Quwwatiwa al-Jawwiyah] at the disposal of the Syrian forces, which constitute the majority of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon, to prevent new Israeli raids on civilian targets.

SANA said that the Syrian forces had much such a request and that its request was met as of noon today. The agency said that Syrian supersonic jets are making a continuous noise in the sky over Damascus as they fly to and from Lebanon. No air clashes have been reported so far.

Observers in Damascus believe that the Syrian jets will continue to patrol Syrian and Lebanese airspace but they will not intervene unless Israeli jets appear in the skies over Lebanon.

KHADDAM INFORMS 'ARAFAT OF SYRIAN SUPPORT

JN152128Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening contacted Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, and informed him on behalf of Syria and its President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria will constantly be on the side of the Palestinian revolution as it has always been. On behalf of Syria and of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Khaddam hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution forces in the face of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution bases there.

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT CONTACTS AL-ASAD ON SOUTH LEBANON

JN152340Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 15 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Algerian President Houari Boumediene last night [15 March] contacted President Hafiz al-Asad by telephone and exchanged viewpoints with him on the situation following the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

PRESS COMMENTS ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON

JN160558Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Mar 78 JN

[Press Review]

[Excerpts] Today's papers highlight the criminal Zionist attack on southern Lebanon and Syria's firm position in supporting the Palestinian revolution forces. The papers report prominently on their front pages Arab and world reaction to this aggression, which is part of an American plan to make revolutionary Syria submit to capitulatory plans.

The papers feature these headlines: "President al-Asad Affirms We Will Remain With the Palestinian Revolution"; "Khaddam Informs 'Arafat of Syria's Firm Position and Leader Al-Asad's Greetings to the Fighters"; "A Syrian Air Force Unit [Quwwah Suriyah Jawwiyah] Is Placed at Disposal of Deterrent Forces--Our Air Defense Hits an Enemy Plane"; "Palestinian Revolution Forces Wage Fierce Battles All Along Southern Lebanon--the Enemy Fails to Achieve His Objectives and Sustains Heavy Losses."

Under the headline "The Zionist Aggression Is Part of the Expansionist Plan," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: The criminal Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and enemy raids on residential areas and Palestinian camps confirm the fact, known to the international community, that the Zionist entity is of an aggressive and expansionist nature and is hostile to peace and stability in the area. Peace conflicts with the basis on which this entity was established and with the open and secret plans of its policy.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The Zionist enemy has a long record of crime and savage attacks on peaceful citizens. Despite all the feeble excuses the Zionist leaders give to justify their acts, crime, murder and aggression have been the characteristics of Israel since it was established by imperialism on a part of Arab territory as an expansionist settler entity serving the short- and long-term objectives of imperialism and Zionism in the Arab world and in Africa.

The Zionist enemy tried to justify his treacherous aggression against Lebanon by claiming that it was a reprisal for the operation carried out near Tel Aviv last Saturday by the fedayeen operating inside the occupied territory. But the terrorist Menahem Begin exposed the aims of this aggression when he disclosed at his press conference last night the plans to occupy certain parts of southern Lebanon in accordance with the illegitimate Zionist expansionist strategy, which has been condemned by the whole world.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: If this new Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon has placed before the Arab nation and the whole world the reality of the racist and expansionist Zionist entity and its hostility to peace, it has also exposed As-Sadat's defeatist and capitulatory policy as part of the imperialist-Zionist plan to liquidate the Palestinian question and dominate the Arab world.

In an editorial entitled "Israel Is a Pirate and Gangster State," the newspaper TISHRIN says: In the early hours of yesterday morning, Wednesday, Israeli forces crossed the Lebanese border in very large numbers--estimated at 25,000--and launched a real war against the Lebanese and the Palestinian refugees, using the most up-to-date ground, air and naval weapons, obtained largely from the United States.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli rulers justified this blatant criminal attack on Lebanon--women, men and children--and on the Palestinian refugees who were expelled by Israel from their own homeland by saying that it was a reprisal for the fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv. Despite the great uproar which Israel created about the fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv, the preparation for the aggression against southern Lebanon had been going on for a long time and Israel's designs on southern Lebanon are also very old.

The Israeli aggression was expected under the present circumstances in the Middle East, which are characterized by the failure of the conspiracy to impose capitulation on the Arabs, the isolation of the capitulatory As-Sadat regime and also the isolation of Israel internationally. The Israeli rulers were expected to resort to their favorite methods of force and aggression. The world press and statements by various countries have forecast the Israeli aggression.

TISHRIN continues: Had there not been any fedayeen operation in Tel Aviv, Israel would come up with another excuse to carry out its aggression, which has several objectives, including trying to liquidate the Palestinian armed resistance and luring the Arabs into an armed battle whose time, place and weapons are imposed by Israel. If the Israeli rulers have direct responsibility for the criminal aggression, the United States also has its share of the responsibilty. It is the United States which has given and is giving Israel large quantities of arms for aggression, economic support and political backing. It also keeps silent on Israeli occupation of Arab territory and Israeli denial of Palestinian rights, especially their right to self-determination.

TISHRIN concludes: The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon reveals anew the nature of the racist Zionist entity called Israel, the nature of lawlessness, aggression, piracy and disregard for international conventions and laws and world public opinion. The new aggression reaffirms the danger which Israel constitutes not only to security and peace in the Middle East but also to world peace and international relations.

ALGERIA

OFFICIALS ASK UN MEMBERS TO CONDEMN ISRAELI ATTACK

LD1520?1Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The ambassadors of the permanent member countries of the Security Council have been received at the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they were informed, on behalf of the Algerian Government, of the deep concern felt by Algeria over the latest Israeli act of aggression against Lebanon. Their attention was drawn to the consequences of this aggression for peace in the region and international security.

(?In solidarity) with the Syrian move, Algeria has asked the Security Council members to act on their responsibility with regard to the new situation which has been created. The ambassadors of (?Syria), Lebanon and the PLO representative have been invited to provide data on the latest developments for the information of the Algerian Government, which has been following the situation in the Near East with great attention. President Houari Boumediene today took up contact with President Hafiz al-Asad, in the same context.

On a different level, within the framework of the decisions of the summit of the Arab front, which met in Tripoli earlier, consultations are in progress at present with Algiers with the ambassadors of Libya, of South Yemen, of Syria and the representative of the PLO with the aim of coordinating better the actions of the countries of the front at the Arab as well as the international level. Lastly, President Boumediene has sent a message of solidarity to the president of the Republic of Lebanon and to the chairman of the PLO.

Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of foreign affairs, has made contact with the UN secretary general and sent him a message.

BOUMEDIENE SENDS MESSAGES TO SARKIS, PLO

LD160603Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene sent the following telegram to the Lebanese President, Ilyas Sarkis:

The government and people of Algeria are following with deep concern the armed invasion by the Zionist enemy against your country. This blatant aggression against the sovereignty of an independent people and the violation of their national territory once again confirms Israel's aggressive intentions and her plans which aim at imposing a fait accompli and entrenching her occupation and domination of the Arab region.

Israel has given yet another proof that her basic aim is the annihilation of the Palestinian people and the liquidation of their just question and compelling Lebanon to bow to her will and foisting her hegemony on other fraternal peoples. This aggression into which the enemy has hurled vast numbers of his forces and arms shows the extent of the danger posed by the Zionist regime, which is based on force, occupation, expansion, domination and the denial of the rights of peoples and the principles which are held by the international community regarding world peace and security.

Israel has continued to pursue the policy of aggressive and constant acts of war against your country, enjoying in this the support and the collusion of imperialism which is hostile to the national liberation movement and the liberty and sovereignty of peoples.

The war which is being waged by Israel against your country and the process of extermination to which the Palestinian people are subjected constitute a new act of defiance against the whole Arab nation. It enjoins on it to meet it with effectiveness and real solidarity and united efforts capable of defeating aggression and of protecting its dignity and the sovereignty of its peoples. The events have once again proved that there can be no sound and just solution to the Middle East crisis except by recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people and their lawful organization and by regaining all the occupied Arab territory.

In these difficult circumstances, Algeria stands on the side of your fraternal people as a confirmation of her national duty and inspired by the principles of brotherhood and common struggle against Zionism and imperialism and for the freedom of our nation and the preservation of its dignity.

Message to 'Arafat

LD160604Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] President Houari Boumediene also sent the following message to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee:

The extensive invasion operation and the blatant act of aggression which are being waged by the Zionist enemy forces in the sister country of Lebanon in a desperate attempt to destroy the struggle of your fighting people represent a new phase in the policy of domination, occupation, expansion and the violation of Arab territory pursued by Israel in the region. It is an extension to the series of repeated acts of aggression and the aggressive war waged against the Palestinian people and other fraternal peoples. This new act of aggression confirms that Zionism sees in the existence of your Palestinian people and their continued resistance a basic obstacle in the path of the realization of its plans to find a solution to the Middle East problem conforming with its expansionist ambitions and assuring it of domination and control over the destiny of the Arab homeland. For this reason it held the liquidation of the Palestinian question and the extermination of its people as its direct objective, using every means to achieve it. But the Zionist enemy is facing a people who have resolved to wrest their rights and to defend their existence and freedom whatever the cost.

The Palestine resistance, which is consistent with the general trend of history and has common grounds with the national liberation movements in Africa and the Third World, expresses the determination of a whole nation to regain its rights and to protect its dignity, realizing the deep significance of the battle it is fighting against Zionism and imperialism. It finds reassurance among all the forces which stand for freedom, justice and peace in the world.

The Zionist aggression against the Palestinian resistance and the sister country Lebanon is an aggression against the whole Arab nation, requiring the nation to intensify its struggle against Israel and to unify its efforts for the liberation of the Arab territory and regaining the national rights of the Palestinian people and to effectively resist the plots which are being hatched against the safety of the Arab nation.

Current events have once again proved that there can be no sound and just solution to the Middle East question without recognizing the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the participation of their organization as their sole lawful representative, which speaks on their behalf and expresses their hopes and aspirations.

Loyal to the traditions of her struggle and the duty of brotherhood and solidarity and inspired by its options and commitments, Algeria stands on the side of the Palestinian revolution in its heroic struggle against the brutal Zionist aggression in defense of its just quest and the honor of the whole Arab nation.

LIBYA

AT-TURAYKI CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST LEBANON

Consults Arab Ambassadors

LD151740Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--This morning, following the treacherous aggression that the forces of the Zionist enemy have launched against southern Lebanon, the Foreign Secretariat of the Jamahiriyah made urgent and intensive contacts aimed at confronting this treacherous aggression to which fraternal Lebanon is being subjected by the Israelis in their effort to deal a blow to the progressive forces and the Palestine revolution.

This morning the foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, received the ambassadors of the confrontation states in the Jamahiriyah and discussed the latest developments with them, stressing the seriousness of the situation and the need firmly to confront this treacherous aggression against the Palestine revolution, Syria and Lebanon.

The ambassadors emphasized that the situation was very grave and requires immediate and firm confrontation and that they would be in touch with their respective governments immediately to convey to them the Jamahiriyah's views regarding the need to confront this plot.

The foreign secretary also received the Iraqi ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and discussed all aspects of the situation with him and the need to adopt immediate and decisive measures to confront the Zionist aggression, including support for the Palestine revolution.

The foreign secretary, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, also telephoned Yasir 'Arafat this morning, chairman of the Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, and brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Cable Sent to Waldheim

LD160944Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, has sent the following calbe to Kurt Waldheim, UN secretary general, in connection with the Zionist attacks on southern Lebanon:

The contimuation of the racist Zionist aggression on the struggling Palestinian people and the fraternal Lebanese people confirms the aggressive expansionist nature of the racist Zionist regime founded on the usurpation and the shedding of innocent blood.

While the Jamahiriyah condemns this flagrant aggression, which is threatening peace and security in the region and the world and which is considered a flagrant violation of the principles and Charter of the United Nations, and confirms its support for the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon in their tribulation, and while urging you to halt this treacherous aggression and condemn the aggressor, we express to you our support for your efforts aimed at preserving international peace and security. Please accept my best regards.

Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Jamahiriyah, and chairman of the 30th session of the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers.

The foreign secretary also sent similar cables to the foreign ministers of the OAU and the Islamic Conference outlining the nature of the treacherous aggression on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples launched by the racist Zionist entity on 15 March 1978, and he called upon them to help halt this expansionist aggression and condemn the aggressor.

MEETING OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL CALLED FOR

LD151844Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The PLO representative in Tripoli today handed a message for the foreign secretary addressed to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from brother Yasir 'Arafat.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah today officially has called for the convening of an emergency session of the UN Security council to discuss the brutal Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon.

SUDAN

OFFICIALS CONDEMN ISRAELI REPRISAL ATTACK

LD151555Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Sudanese Socialist Union Foreign Relations Committee, in a statement issued today, has condemned the attack launched by Israel on southern Lebanon at midnight last night. It called on all honorable people in the world to stand by the Palestinian cause. The statement called on Israel to realize the gravity of [words indistinct] acts of aggression against the sovereignty of Lebanon and [word indistinct] of the Arab nation at a time when world public opinion was preparing to bring about a just peace in the area. [sentence indistinct] (?It pointed out) that the Sudan's policy, committed as it was to supporting the causes of liberation, primarily the Palestinian cause, was being further consolidated in all its position of support.

TUNISIA

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ACTION

LD160010Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Tunisian Government has issued the following statement:

At dawn yesterday, Wednesday, Israel committed a new aggression against southern Lebanon and the refugee camps. Large forces of the Israeli army launched an all-embracing invasion of southern Lebanon with the participation of land, naval and air forces which is planned to be an operation of extermination and annihilation of the struggling Palestinian people.

The Tunisian Goverment, while following with great concern the serious situation resulting from this invasion of southern Lebanon, which is threatening security and peace in the whole Middle East region, declares its denunciation and condemnation of the blatant brutal aggression being carried out by the Israeli military forces, and with humility and respect begs peace for the soul of the martyr sons of the Palestinian people who fell victims to this treacherous aggression. It also addresses an urgent appeal to all the states and peoples eager for the establishment of just peace in the Middle East region and for the protection of human rights and dignity of peoples to face up with all their influence to this premeditated heinous crime and in front of the eyes and hearing of world public opinion.

The Tunisian Government expresses its support for sister Lebanon who once again is being subjected to premeditated aggression, the full responsibility for which lies on Israel's shoulders. In these difficult circumstances through which the Palestinian resistance is going, the Tunisian Government cannot but once again confirm the Tunisian people's backing for their Palestinian brethren and support for their just cause. It also appeals to the fraternal Arab countries to overcome their passing differences to collectively stand up to this new Israeli challenge.

DESTOURIAN PARTY CONDEMNS ISRAELI 'AGGRESSION'

LD160024Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Political Bureau of the Destourian Socialist Party held its regular meeting this evening at the party house in Al-Qasabah under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, secretary general of the party and prime minister.

The Political Bureau looked into the grave events that recently broke out in the Middle East, as represented in the new Israeli aggression against Lebanon and against the Palestinian camps in this sister country. The Political Bureau has condemned this brutal Israeli aggression and once again has expressed total support and backing for the struggling Palestinian people, as has been stressed by the statement of the Tunisian Government.

FOREIGN MINISTER TELLS OF SUPPORT FOR PLO

LD151815Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] At noon today, Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri received in audience the PLO representative in Tunis Hasan Bil'awi, who handed him a letter from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, for President Bourguiba in connection with attacks which the Israeli forces carried out against the refugee camps and Palestinian bases in the south of Lebanon.

Mohamed Fitouri reaffirmed President Bourguiba's pro-Palestinian stand supporting the struggle for the restoration of their usurped rights. He also expressed the Tunisian people's and government's condemnation of the invasion operations being carried out by the Israeli army in the south of Lebanon, violating the sovereignty of this sister Arab country and continuing the acts of annihilation which have as a target the camps of the innocent Palestinian refugees.

Hasan Bil'awi expressed the thanks and gratitude of the PLO and Palestinian people for the continued support and assistance they received from President Bourguiba and the Tunisian Government and people.

BRIEFS

LOAN FOR ALGERIA--A loan agreement for 15 billion yen--$67 million--has been agreed to in Paris between the Algerian National Navigation Company [CNAN], the Foreign Bank of Algeria, and a consortium of Japanese banks. Guaranteed by the Foreign Bank of Algeria, the loan extends for 6 years with 36 months deferment, and will be used to purchase ships. [Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD]

CUBAN MINISTER IN TRIPOLI--Tripoli, March 11, JANA--The Jamahiriyah secretary of food and maritime resources received here today the Cuban minister of economic cooperation currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. Bilateral relations and cooperation, especially in maritime resources were discussed at the meeting. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1842 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD]

FIRST SYRIAN 'MILITARY' REACTION REPORTED

TA151711Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Syria has placed air support at the disposal of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon. An hour ago Damascus Radio reported that Syria answered positively a request from the inter-Arab force to provide air support for fear of a renewal of Israeli bombings of civilian targets, as it put it. A spokesman of the inter-Arab force says that the air support has been at its disposal since noon.

Our correspondent for Arab Affairs, Arye Gus, points out that this is the first Syrian military reaction to the IDF operation in Lebanon.

A statement issued by the inter-Arab deterrent force a few minutes ago says that the aid that Syria will put at its disposal in Lebanon is antiaircraft batteries.

IDF TO REMAIN IN S. LEBANON, COOPERATE WITH CHRISTIANS

TA151847Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] At this moment the following report has come in. The IDF plans to remain in Lebanese territory in order to insure the existence of the security belt about which the defense minister and the chief of staff spoke this morning at a press conference in Tel Aviv. The establishment of the security belt, says our correspondent Benny Rom, is viable with close cooperation with Christian forces in southern Lebanon. [begin recording]

[Rom] The Christian forces in southern Lebanon are aiding IDF forces advancing in the field both with intelligence information and also with physical involvement. I have learned that the Defense Ministry and GHQ have prepared a plan according to which immediately after the end of the military operation a single continuity will be set up within the security belt--a continuity that will unite all the Christian forces in the south from the salient in the west to that in the northeast. Such a plan could be realized, as has been said, immediately after the combined military operation. This continuity will continue from the Christian village of 'Alma ash-Sha'b via Rumaysh north of Yir'en and up to Marj 'Uyun which is north of Metulla. Such a continuity will enable the prevention of the infiltration of terrorists south across the border with Israel and will set up a real security belt.

During his visit today to the village of 'Alma ash-Sha'b the prime minister pointed out that in the past the Israeli Government had helped the Christians in Lebanon and that it will do so in the future. The prime minister also said during his visit that Israel will do everything it can so that the terrorist forces will not harm the Christian minority. In order to insure this security belt and maintain it, it appears that the IDF will again conduct permanent patrols within Lebanese territory along the border.

This situation, as can be recalled, existed in the past--about 2 years ago when the terrorists infiltrated into southern Lebanon and concentrated large forces there. From their strongholds in this region they fired katyusha rockets at Israeli settlements and even established camps for terrorists.

BEGIN, DEFENSE MINISTER VISIT LEBANESE VILLAGES

TA151639Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1630 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The IDF operation in southern Lebanon continues. Its purpose, as explained by the chief of staff, is to create a security belt for Israel in its northern border.

This morning the prime minister, Menahem Begin, visited the combat areas accompanied by the defense minister and Maj Gen Refa'el Eytan, chief of operations. Our correspondent reports that the prime minister visited the Moslem village of Naqurah and the Christian village of 'Alma ash-Sha'b. The prime minister mentioned the fact that despite the fact that IDF forces had control of the Moslem village of Naqurah the villagers continued their normal work and the routine of their lives. In the Christian village of 'Alma ash-Sha'b the prime minister was received with honor and notables made speeches in honor of Israel and the IDF.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES BOMBING OF REFUGEE CAMP

TA152300Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2200 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The IDF spokesman has denied a report that the air force acted today against a refugee camp near Beirut. In answer to a question from our correspondent, he pointed out that our planes acted only against terrorist targets. He stressed that contrary to a terrorist announcement, all our planes returned to their bases intact.

MINISTER 'AMIT REACTS TO IDF ACTION IN S. LEBANON

TA151327Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1255 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Now we will hear what Minister Me'ir 'Amit has to say concerning the connection between the IDF action and the momentum of the political negotiations.

['Amit] I want to restrict myself to only one aspect of the question--of whether this action will advance or will disturb the process of peace making. In my view, we must wait until the final results, but in my view it will help advance the matter and the reason for that is as follows: I think that the action of the terrorists was not a normal action, it was part of a series of actions such as the murder of Yusuf as-Siba'i in Cyprus. That action was in fact intended to disrupt the peace making process and the question now is whether we will really be able to cut off their arm, at least for a certain period of time, and not for a short time.

In the final analysis, this will have a good effect, although I admit that it may be that, at the first stage, it will appear as though it will somehow hold up the peace process. In the final analysis, however, if we were to ignore the action and they were to continue to try to sabotage, it would disturb more. The conclusion is that if this action in fact succeeds in neutralizing the terrorists for an extended period of time, for a relatively extended period of time, then we have achieved a free road for the chariot of peace and it appears to me that this is what is going to happen. At the moment I do not have enough details, but it appears to me that this is what is going to happen and, in the final analysis, at least from this point of view, we must welcome the action.

PERES COMMENTS ON IDF OPERATION IN S. LEBANON

TA151909Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, returned to Israel about half an hour ago from a 5-day visit to Romania. He talked with our correspondent Sara Frankel at Ben-Gurion Airport about his talks with the Romanian president and about the IDF operation in Lebanon. [begin recording]

[Question] You held a second meeting with Romanian President Ceausescu after it was already known about the bloodbath in Tel Aviv. Was there any change in the Romanian president's remarks to you?

[Answer] The president told me and also made it public that Romania does not maintain that the individual terror acts are permissible or can achieve any political objective. They reject this both in theory and in practice. He thinks that the solution should be sought in a peaceful manner even though he [words indistinct] the retaliation operation. I did not expect this to be the case. At any rate, this was the maximal expression on his part.

[Question] Since the Romanians support the PLO and also a third state, did the events in Tel Aviv enable you to explain the State of Israel's opposition to this position?

[Answer] Not only that, but we said that the PLO had also harmed the Egyptians as well as Israel. In fact, what the PLO is trying to do is not only to kill men, women and children but also to harm the peace process. We have said that we will not be able to achieve peace with the PLO.

[Question] As for the IDF operation in southern Lebanon, you as a former defense minister--just as there are several Knesset members today who say that the IDF should remain in the area until it is assured that the terrorists do not return there--do you also maintain this?

[Answer] I do not know all the details of the operation, but I have no doubt that the terrorists should be struck where they are, at the right time and without mercy because what they did is a very serious thing--a dastardly crime. Apart from this terrible aspect they are also trying to disrupt peace, not only kill men, women and children; they are trying to kill the peace process itself.

I do not know exactly what the government's plan is, I do not know the scale of the operation and I would not like to express an opinion off the cuff.

[Question] At any rate, as you are a former defense minister, I repeat the question. The IDF now controls southern Lebanon. The question is whether it should retrace its steps as was determined recently by the MAPAM Secretariat, or whether it should remain there until an agreement is achieved with the Lebanese so that the terrorists do not return to the region.

[Answer] I think that it should be made most clear that we have no intention of remaining in Lebanese territory and any declaration that creates such an impression is damaging. We have to draw a very clear distinction between the operation against the terrorists and any territorial implication. Therefore, by the very formulation of your question and the formulation of my answer the wrong impression might be created. We have to act against the terrorists without mercy wherever they are, and we have to make it absolutely clear that we have no intention of remaining on Lebanese territory. [end recording]

KNESSET MEMBERS ASKED VIEWS ON IDF OPERATION

TA151832Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Over to the Knesset where deliberations went on as usual even though major attention was, of course, being paid to what is going on in southern Lebanon.

Here is a collection of reactions from Knesset members on the IDF operation, brought by our Knesset correspondent Moshe Kohen: [begin recording]

Knesset members of the various factions were mostly united in the opinion that the IDF operation today is the right move, in the right place and at the right time. The differences of opinion as manifested in the remarks of the various Knesset members revolved around the question of how long is it desirable for the IDF forces to remain in southern Lebanon. There were also a few who took exception to the timing and scale of the operation. However, no one, except for RAKAH, disputed the need for the operation.

MK Yosef Rom of the Likud, a member of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, outlines what he regards as the guideline for the operation.

[Rom] We can see a policy line aimed at removing terrorist bases from near the border with Israel. This is not a retaliatory operation, it is not an operation aimed at harming terrorists on a one-time basis, but the intention is to arrive at a new arrangement on the northern border.

[Kohen] This is how MK Rom views the political objective of the operation.

[Rom] It is our intention to find a political settlement with the Lebanese Government which will enable it to control Lebanon, to maintain quiet on our northern border. As you have heard from the defense minister and the chief of staff, the IDF will remain and control this area until such settlements are implemented.

[Kohen] Professor Rom's faction colleague, MK Ge'ula Kohen, believes that the IDF operation should not only be a clean-up operation but an uprooting operation, as she put it, and she clarifies what she means.

[MK Kohen] There cannot be a real clean-up without an uprooting. There cannot be an uprooting without the IDF remaining in that region. Only if the IDF remains in that region can this be done. Otherwise it will be filled up again with their reserves. They are not short of terrorists, they are not short of reserves. Even if we totally clean up the terrorist nests there are enough terrorist eggs to hatch into terror and encourage additional terrorist acts.

[Kohen] MK Yigal Allon of the Alinement fully supports the IDF operation.

[Allon] Despite the fact that I am not regarded as being trigger happy, I am in agreement with this operation and I even recommended it 2 days before the government decided to carry it out. This is an operation taking place at the right time against the right enemy in the right arena and in the right manner. We are talking here not about revenge and not about a retaliation. This is a defensive operation par excellence; efficient and most essential.

[Kohen] To the question of whether today's operation will serve as a final solution to the problem of terrorist activity from Lebanese territory, Yigal Allon answers.

[Allon] This operation in itself cannot solve the problem. It serves as a major contribution to our comprehensive struggle against the PLO. I strongly recommend that we continue to hold our new positions either through a patrolling or other means until a new agreement is reached--this time a more credible agreement--with the Lebanese Government through one or another mediation, with the indirect blessing of Syria to the effect that the terrorists not be allowed to return to southern Lebanon.

[Kohen] Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, the chairman of the Mafdal in the Knesset, says that after the IDF operation ends the government will have to consider its future intentions.

[Ben-Me'ir] It is clear that the intention is not a one-time act. The intention is to create a situation in which that territory will no longer serve as a base for attacks against us. This is our basic right. Again, I think that important elements in the world will understand this. There is nothing more justified than the fact that this territory cannot become a permanent base for attacks against us.

[Kohen] Yehuda Ben-Me'ir does not believe that the IDF operation will influence our relations with the United States, but its influence on the negotiations with Egypt will, in his opinion, be:

[Ben-Me'ir] I do not think that the operation should influence the negotiations, and here we are facing a great test because we want to achieve a settlement with Egypt and, as is known, the terrorists and part of the rejectionist front [as heard]. Now, if a settlement with Egypt--and it can even be a signed agreement--if a signed agreement with it will tie our hands with respect to the fight against the terrorists with it becoming a one-sided combat--well it is clear that this is inconceivable. This really is a test; does Egypt understand that there is no connection between the two?

[Kohen] Asaf Yaguri of the DMC has an original position relating to an aspect which his colleagues have not touched upon.

[Yaguri] The main purpose for the operation, in my opinion, lies in the degree to which we will insure that Israeli armor will continue to control southern Lebanon as long as Syrian armor is present there. Then our evacuation from southern Lebanon will be carried out side by side with the evacuation of the Syrian armored forces. In this regard the final settlements about the Golan Heights will also be arranged. I tie the IDF operation this time with final settlements concerning the whole of the State of Israel's northern border.

[Kohen] Me'ir Pa'il of Shelli is the last in the series:

[Pa'il] If they were to ask me I would call for restraint; to prepare one or two commando actions against senior Fatah command posts. This cannot be done from one day to the next--to strike a blow like a razor's edge right on the senior people who bear the guilt.
[end recording]

TERRORISTS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES CAPTURED

TA160037Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0030 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Prisoners captured by the IDF have been brought to Israel. Correspondents report that there are not only Palestinians among the terrorists but various nationalities, including a Pakistani.

UNREST, DISTURBANCES IN ARAB POPULATION REPORTED

Judaea, Samaria Disturbances

TA151818Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] There were disturbances of the peace and disruptions in studies in several places in Judaea and Samaria in protest against the IDF operation. The police dispersed them. In Janin and Ramallah students congregated in the streets; however, after a tiie they dispersed. In Halhul students went into the streets and the police dispersed them. Two students were taken in for questioning.

East Jerusalem, Tulkarm

TA160924Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Dozens of high school students are now demonstrating in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gabi Bronn reports that unrest is being felt in schools in that area. Police patrols have been intensified to prevent attempts to disrupt order. This morning a number of tires were set on fire near the Ritz Hotel, apparently by students.

In Tulkarm students rioted this morning and hurled stones at security forces. The students were dispersed and calm has reigned there since then.

RABIN INTERVIEWED ON IDF OPERATION, MIDEAST ISSUES

TA151645Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1405 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Interview with MK Yizhaq Rabin by Yosef Harif and Dani Rubinstein moderated by Yizhaq Golan--live]

[Text] [Golan] Hello dear listeners, our guest in the studio is MK Yizhaq Rabin and my colleagues are journalists Yosef Harif and Dani Rubinstein. The IDF operation in southern Lebanon continues. Similar operations have been carried out in the past when the objective was to strike the terrorists as far as possible and to destroy their bases. Today we are talking about the final destruction of Fatahland and the creation of a security belt. MK Yizhaq Rabin, sir, do you support the IDF remaining along the Litani?

[Rabin] First of all I will allow myself to say that I am expressing the opinion of most Israelis in supporting the decision to launch a comprehensive operation against the terrorists--those who assumed responsibility and actively perpetrated the horrible murder last Saturday. I am sure that I would be expressing the feeling of all Israelis in saying that we all hope and pray that the IDF soldiers fulfill their mission as well as possible and with the fewest possible number of losses on our side.

Now, for the question itself. I assess that the objective of the operation, as it has been defined, is to deal a hard blow--and such a blow has already been dealt--against the organization of murderers that calls itself Fatah, and others, both in southern Lebanon and, to a lesser extent in the wake of the activity of the airforce, in the more northern parts. There is no doubt that the blow is a hard one, but I feel that even at this moment, while our soldiers are acting against the murderers, we should remember that under the existing political conditions, in the political reality in which we find ourselves, I doubt if one blow can destroy the organization of murderers. If a security belt is created along our border with Lebanon and if it is held for a long period of time, either by a more permanent presence of IDF soldiers, or through another system of mobile presence or combined with the Christian forces who would be reinforced and strengthened there, this would remove the threat of infiltration from southern Lebanon into Israeli territory. This would not remove other paths of approach and infiltration for the organization of murderers to targets in Israel, not to mention targets outside it.

[Golan] Is this possible, from a political point of view?

[Rabin] You mean, of course, is it possible to maintain a security belt for an extended period?

[Golan] Of course.

[Rabin] It is too early to assess this. I assess that for a limited period it is possible. At this stage I cannot say more.

[Harif] I want to ask a question that is being asked by many. Syria, before Israel launched the operation, threatened that it would not remain passive, but on the contrary, that it would be active to counter the Isreali forces. Now we learn that the Syrians are, in fact, quiet and, moreover, the terrcrist organization As-Sa'iqah, which is under Syrian control, has also not become active as far as we have learned from the communications media. What, in your opinion, is the reason for Syrian restraint, at this stage, from beginning activity?

[Rabin] The first thing restraining the Syrians is connected with the objective of the Israeli operation--that is to say, the (?entry) from the point of view of the activities of the Israeli land forces into the area which the Syrians have not taken control of, for which they have not assumed responsibility, and I would say that from this point of view the policy of the previous and present governments, which determined a red line for the infiltration of Syrian forces south of the line extending from Sidon to the west [as heard] which is about 50 km north of the Lebanese-Israeli border, and an insistence that the Syrians not move south, does not immediately oblige the Syrians to act in the region of southern Lebanon.

The second thing, which is also important, I think that the Syrian army's deployment, the equivalent of two Syrian divisions are in Lebanon, with the result that their main line on the Golan Heights has been weakened, serves as a military consideration limiting the Syrian army's ability to react. In the past there was a dispute within Israel about whether the entry of the Syrian army into Lebanon serves to strengthen Syria's strategic position vis-a-vis Israel or not. I feel that today's reality proves that it served to weaken it.

The third reason, we find ourselves in a situation in which there is tension, a split to a large extent, between the Arab rejectionist front and Egypt. When there is tension, hostility and a lack of coordination between Egypt and Syria, with there being no Syrian certainty that if Syria, on its own, gets involved in a military operation against Israel--then certainly Syria feels much weaker. [sentence as heard]

If we add to this the fact that the situation between Syria and Iraq is not idyllic, then Syria stands isolated in the face of the huge power of the IDF which has become bigger and stronger over the past few years.

[Rubinstein] I shall continue on this line regarding Syria, and will ask, Mr Rabin, a question which has already been asked several times on operations of this sort. The problem as far as we are concerned is also how not to dance to the Palestinians' tune, that is, their political goals in such actions, the murderous acts which they have committed. The various terrorist acts are both to escalate the situation, and to bring about the involvement of other Arab countries. What I want to ask is, how is there a way to really react more directly to the PLO, without dancing to their tune and making them really gain what they want, to involve other Arab countries in the conflict?

[Rabin] No doubt one of the major goals of the assassins' organization, the PLO, in its criminal act last Saturday, was, besides killing Jews because they are Jews, to create a difficult situation for the continuation of the political process, for the continuation of the chance for renewing the direct contacts between Egypt and Israel, and certainly for the possibility of Jordan joining the talks.

We know, there is no need for a sophisticated intelligence service for that, that the spokesman of that organization and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, have, since President as-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem, repeatedly and publicly declared their intention to increase all the acts, including acts of terror and killing, with the aim of disrupting the political process.

Therefore, Israel is in a position in which it must, when an act like the one on Saturday is committted, seek the golden mean between a reaction which entails a direct blow to the organization of murderers, the PLO, and not disrupting the political process. If this is achieved, both in the field, in those areas where it is now being carried out, that is, the southern part of southern Lebanon, the operation will not expand and will not involve more forces. [sentence as heard] Indeed, that was how the statement made by the military spokesman went, that the soldiers, and the government do not mean to get involved with either the Lebanese army or the Syrian army, under its cover name, the inter-Arab army. If this is indeed what happens, I believe that it would not harm, at least would not severely harm, the possibilities of the continuation of the negotiations process. It may very well be that the Arab countries, Egypt on the one hand, Syria on the other, will be put in a position in which they will have to make decisions. I believe that Egypt will not change its basic positions, will not detour from its peace initiative. I do not think that the operation will change Egypt's positions as they have been, or as they will be presented in any case. I do not think that Syria will take upon itself unnecessary risks.

[Harif] What lessons do you think, as a result of last Saturday's events, both the police and the IDF will have to learn?

[Rabin] Even if today's military operation, and its continuation, achieves all its goals in terms of a hard blow to the terrorist organization, I do not think that the organization will be destroyed, or that its desire to pursue its acts of murder will end. Therefore, the war should be regarded as a continuous war that includes attacks like the one carried out today, and other things, but which also has defensive aspects, complex and involved, which entail daily, dull efforts, spread out over 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Without continuous efforts to improve, there is no security that the incident, the accident like the one which took place on Saturday, will not be repeated.

[Harif] For the moment I will leave the military aspects of the current operation, and ask you, Mr Rabin, about the political aspect. We have heard that Syria has approached, through the ambassadors of the powers--the permanent members of the United Nations--to act for the convening of the Security Council in order to demand that Israel withdraw from the area it is now holding. According to your political experience in the United States and as prime minister, can you forecast a scenario for the next day, or days?

[Rabin] It is not inconceivable that one of the members of the Security Council, whether on its own initiative, or on the initiative of the country concerned, Lebanon, the Government of Lebanon, will bring about the convening of the Security Council and a debate on what is now taking place in Lebanon, and that draft resolutions of one sort or another will be put forward. As is known, the United States has the right of veto. It is difficult for me to believe that a resolution can be adopted by the Security Council which goes against the U.S. position. Hence, the key to passing any resolution in the Security Council is in the hands of the United States, and hence, the development will be primarily on the plane of Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Golan] It is hard to believe, however, that--in light of the fact that the United States avoided condemning Fatah, and the fact that the minor condemnation which we managed to squeeze out of Washington was a condemnation of the PLO and not of Fatah [as heard]--it is possible to assume that they will try to veto.

[Rabin] I would not like, for the moment, to evaluate hypothetical situations. The question will be, first of all, if and when the Security Council will convene. The second question is, what will the formula of the resolution be. Will the resolution refer only to the IDF operation, will it not refer to Saturday's criminal act as well, and third, what will the resolution call for? Even if we consider the worse assumption of the two, that a resolution calling for ending the operation and withdrawing will be passed, then, of course, Israel faces the question of whether to accept this resolution. Israel is an independent country and can act according to its own considerations. Only later will the Security Council have to decide what it will do if Israel does or does not accept this or that formula of the Security Council resolution.

[Rubinstein] Excuse me, would you recommend that Israel remain in the area--and it seems, by reading between the lines of the statements by the minister of defense, that such a possibility is being taken into consideration--until the security belt, which is militarily desirable to Israel, is consolidated? Would you recommend that Israel remain in the area, despite the condemnations, despite the appeals, until it completes the achievement of this goal of consolidating a security belt?

[Rabin] I assume, on the basis of my familiarity with the area and with the problem, and on the basis of the statements that have so far been publicly made by government spokesmen, that for the moment the IDF is operating, as the chief of staff said, toward tying all those targets--terrorist bases which have been captured during the night and the day--into one framework, in a 7-10-km-wide strip along the border from the sea to Har Dov.

That strip can be held in a variety of ways. I do not think that such an extensive operation is being carried out in order to remain there only several hours. The reference is undoubtedly to several days; the reference is undoubtedly also to ways of holding which can be politically presented in an appropriate manner. Moreover, it is not inconceivable that, at the time, on the subject of the Syrian army's entry into Lebanon as well as on the subject of establishing the red line regarding its movement southward in Lebanon, on the subject of the cease-fire, or the cease-fire agreement, which was supposedly achieved several months ago, the Israeli contact with the Lebanese Government was through the United States. I suppose that along with the political activity through UN channels, political activity will also take place via other channels.

[Rubinstein] The prime minister will be in the United States next week.

[Rabin] As is well known, the prime minister will also be in the United States next week. In other words, possibilities of turning the achievements of the military operation, the presence in the security belt into an issue for deliberation and political bargaining, also exist. They are not certain, because the central problem is that we have known for 2 years that there is no central government in Lebanon capable of maintaining control over southern Lebanon.

[Rubinstein] And today President Sarkis also declared that, in fact.

[Rabin] He did not have to declare that yesterday. [as heard] We received such notification as early as a year and a half ago, an authoritative notification on behalf of the Lebanese Government, via the U.S. administration, and we, despite that, objected, and probably object today as well, to the southward movement of the Syrian army, even knowing that if it did not it would leave southern Lebanon in effect to terrorist control, but at the same time would leave the IDF forces freedom of action at any time the Israeli Government desires.

[Rubinstein] Kindly allow me to go back to the political issue. It is no secret that there has been a deterioration in the relationship between Israel and the United States, which has even found expression in the hesitant reaction to the events of Saturday. In your opinion, would it not have been right to the prime minister to postpone his visit to Washington as long as there is no declared change in the U.S. policy toward us?

[Rabin] My answer is negative. I think that the moment there are differences of opinion, and perhaps also misunderstandings, to quote the words of the President of the United States, direct talks on the highest level are preferred. Postponement does not solve things, and it is preferable to shorten the length of time during which we are in a state of misunderstanding and differences of opinion [and during which] no major effort on our part, which is contact on the highest level with the United States to eliminate the misunderstandings, is made, or even if the differences of opinion remain, to discuss them, clarify and define them in a talk on the highest level, with the hope that together with the differences of opinion there is also a common denominator--on how to continue the political process.

[Rubinstein] I think there is some vagueness in the terms we used before, security belt, security strip. I must admit that it is not very clear to me, especially in the light of the fact that we have already operated in that area in the past, and as far as can be recalled, it seems to me in 1972, after the Munich operation, there was an operation--perhaps on a smaller scale--but also of patrols, which continued afterwards for some time, and now the situation has returned to its former position?

[Rabin] I have no doubt that a security belt held in one manner or another by the IDF, by other elements, provides a partial answer. That is, it provides an answer to what can be achieved by holding 7-10 kms beyond our line. In other words, less vulnerability to those settlements which are located along the Lebanese border, and the prevention, or a significant burdening of, penetration through the border between Lebanon and Israel, that does not provide an answer to attempts to penetrate by sea--those who depart from the Tyre and Sidon ports, from Ad-Damur and from the Beirut area--it does not provide an answer to the whole set of other possible attacks that might result from subversive organizing among the residents of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip, or certainly not to attacks abroad. The murderous terrorist act, under the prevailing conditions, especially in Lebanon, cannot be destroyed solely militarily. Without political solutions, the elimination of the problem is doubtful. I should only like to mention that, in fact, since the Yom Kippur war, as a result of a political approach, three of our neighboring states, Egypt, Jordan and Syria, do not permit the initiation of terrorist acts from their territory through the cease-fire lines between us. In fact, the only country which has served and still serves--and I am afraid will also serve in the future--as a base for terrorist activity, for organization and departure, is Lebanon.

[Rubinstein] If you say this, that brings us back again to the question of that security belt, which was, as has been declared, the central objective of the operation, in two respects: one--if we accept your words, it means that in fact the security belt should not be abandoned, because as soon as you leave that security belt, you in fact immediately--and when I say immediately, it can be after some time--bring the situation back to its former state. And the second point, which is related to it, is: apparently you are dealing here with conquest, or holding sovereign territory of the Lebanese Government. How, in your opinion, is it possible to achieve that security belt without it being agreed upon with the Lebanese Government?

[Rabin] As for the first question, there is no doubt about what that strip can give. As I said before, I assume that the aim of the operation is not only the security belt. The aim of the operation is a reaction to last Saturday's criminal acts, a heavy blow to the organization of murders, the PLO, by the liquidation, capture or injury of a large part of its men, by destroying bases in the ground operation and the air force operation, and, of course, by the overall implication of the actual reaction of such dimensions in the minds of its leaders, and to no less a degree, in the price that its members will know they will have to pay in the future for an act carried out by the members of that organization. The by-product--the strip--is a limited product for a very important front for problems of the northern settlements. It does not provide an answer to an operation--if they should try to repeat it--like that carried out last Saturday, because it is not from that strip that they departed or will depart in the future for such operations.

[Rubinstein] The second part.

[Rabin] As for the second part, I do not think today that the Lebanese Government is in a position to say yes or no. The problem with which Israel will be faced, whether to remain, how long to remain, and in what fashion, will belong to a framework of political power relations in which the Lebanese will carry no great weight. It is connected, first and foremost, to the constellation vis-a-vis the United States, and to the government's evaluation of what the implication of a prolonged stay will be on the continuation of the negotiations.

[Harif] President Carter's adviser, Robert Strauss, said a day or two ago that the power of the Jewish lobby is being exaggerated, and that the Jewish community in the United States is not monolithic. Against the background of the President's policy, Mark Siegel recently resigned. From your experience in Washington, how would you explain the acts of the White House, the purpose of which is to drive a wedge between U.S. Jewry and Israel?

[Rabin] This is not much of an innovation. No doubt one of the central problems of every U.S. administration in forming its policy toward the Middle East, insofar as that policy is connected with demands on Israel which are not accepted by the Israeli government and public, is connected with the administration's ability to persuade public opinion in the United States, and within that public opinion, naturally, the most active element, the most loyal to Israel, the Jewish community. Therefore the administrations have always tried to maintain contacts with the Jewish community, especially during the last 10 to 15 years, when the Jewish community in the United States learned its power, learned its Jewish obligation, and noticed that there is no contradiction between being a good American and at the same time fighting the U.S. administration's position if that position opposes interests which are vital to Israel.

[Rubinstein] You said before that the solution of the problems of the killings and all the phenomena of the Palestinian murderousness will ultimately be a political solution, or should be a political solution. In that connection, indeed, yesterday political circles in Jerusalem reported that the Aswan formula is acceptable to them as a basis. What is your opinion on the Aswan formula?

[Rabin] I am not familiar with the Aswan formula that political circles have referred to as acceptable to them. If you ask me, I am ready to say that I think that the Palestinian problem, or the Palestinian issue, should be solved in all its components--I mean, those who live west of the Jordan, east of the Jordan and the refugees, the Eretz Yisra'el Arabs, or the Palestinians--the terminology does not make any difference to me--who live in Lebanon as well--and 250,000 to 300,000 such people live in Lebanon--should be solved within the framework of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, with there being room for the Palestinian leaders of the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip to participate in these negotiations; but the negotiations and the agreement should be with the Kingdom of Jordan.

[Rubinstein] You were attacked on this last week in the Knesset by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, [who said] that in criticism of the government, regarding Jordan, you are causing harm to the country.

[Rabin] I will not accept the criticism, and will even disagree with it. I think that under the existing circumstances, in order to enable the continuation of the political process, it is necessary, of course, to return to direct negotiations with Egypt, and in order to make the way back more simple, it seems to me that it is appropriate to bring Jordan to the negotiation table. It seems to me that unless Israel is willing, within the framework of peace, or for the purpose of the negotiations, to say that according to our interpretation, Resolution 242 applies to Judaea and Samaria as well--in other words, that we are ready to withdraw from territories--by no means to the 4 June 1967 lines, by no means to give up our demand that the Jordan River be the defense line of the State of Israel, but to accept the principle of applying that resolution, in its Israeli interpretation, also on that front in the Arab-Israeli conflict--it seems to me that without an Israeli interpretation like the one that was acceptable to all Israeli governments in the past, it will be difficult for the Government of Jordan to join the negotiations.

[Rubinstein] But, Yizhaq Rabin, this interpretation, which was acceptable to all Israeli governments, was not accepted either by the Palestinians or the Jordanians.

[Rabin] I want to distinguish between arriving at an agreement on the basis of that interpretation, and enabling negotiations on the basis of that interpretation. I am at the moment talking about renewing negotiations. It seems to me that without such an Israeli interpretation, it would be hard, very hard, perhaps even impossible, to bring Jordan into negotiations. I do not promise that all negotiations will be successful. If the Jordanian demand is total withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines--in other words, to before the 6-day war, the redivision of Jerusalem, the establishment of a Palestinian state--I am sure that the majority of the nation in Israel would object to it most vigorously.

[Rubinstein] Allow me, Mr Rabin, to clarify this point, because it is in fact the key point. For 10 years the Alinement went by the formula which you have outlined, namely, that we agree that there is a need to reach a compromise also on the Judaea and Samaria front. Well, for 10 years, you talked about renewing negotiations, and there were negotiations, and there was a direct contact with King Husayn, according to all the hints in the world. Still the matter did not move one bit. Now a new government comes, and, being convinced--and I am not getting into all the ideological distress which the prime minister of this government suffers regarding greater Israel or no greater Israel--for even your formula with the compromise along the lines of the Allon plan was not accepted--well, comes a new government and says let us overcome this matter; we have already received the answer to what the Alinement wants; let us go with a plan which does not involve the imposition of sovereignty, and thus open a door--call it even a 5-year interim arrangement, or one for X number of years--as long as this will prevent a new war.

[Golan] We have 3 minutes for the answer.

[Rabin] Things have changed since the visit of President as-Sadat to Jerusalem. Before that, Jordan stood alone, and after the Rabat summit meeting in October 1974, it was bereft of negotiations of any sort. Therefore, it seems to me at the moment that Israeli policy should be built around an effort to reach a comprehensive agreement with Egypt, and an agreement on joint rule over Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip, between Jordan and Israel, with Israel retaining security control and the right of settlement, and Jordan retaining the administration of the population; with, after 5 or 10 years, Jordan, Israel and the representatives of the inhabitants of those areas, deciding what the permanent solution will be. Moreover, to arrive at such an interim solution, I doubt whether Jordan will take part unless Israel accepts that Resolution 242, according to its interpretation, applies also to Judaea and Samaria. In other words, I regard it almost as a condition for Jordan to be willing to make an interim agreement, as I described it, for a long time. I do not see today a possibility for a permanent solution, even on the basis of a territorial compromise with Jordan.

[Harif] Jordan will not agree to an interim agreement if you do not make a declaration of intentions regarding the future of the territories, and regarding the future of the territories if it does not accept what you propose.

[Rabin] I am not sure that these are the facts today. It seems to me, in any case, that it is worth examining whether, on the basis of acceptance of Resolution 242 with its Israeli interpretation, the Aswan formula, without a referendum, whether Jordan will agree to join the negotiations. Such an Israeli position has not yet been presented, either to the United States or to somebody else.

[Rubinstein] Mr Rabin, are you a partner to claims that the erosion in the position of the United States toward us is the result of the [political] overthrow?

[Rabin] I do not want, and certainly not today, to look for reasons, accusations. I think that a part of the reason for the erosion is connected with positions which the new administration in the United States, the Carter administration, took with its entrance into office, positions which were repugnant not only to Israel, but also to Egypt; and part of the motive for As-Sadat's coming to Jerusalem was his intention to bring about a change in U.S. policy.

Indeed, after a few days' hesitation, the U.S. administration changed its policy, and adjusted it to As-Sadat's moves, in opposition to its previous positions. Secondly, there is no doubt that As-Sadat's move had a marked influence on public opinion in the United States, and certainly it had an influence on the administration's positions. Hence, it seems to me, that in order to face the new reality, and particularly to exhaust the possibility, the chance, that As-Sadat's visit gave Israel--a possibility which did not exist until his visit--and any attempt to place responsibility on previous governments who did not take advantage of such a chance, is groundless, because the previous governments did not have such a chance--all this, of course, without harming the vital interests of Israel--it seems to me that the key today is connected less with the Egyptian-Israeli plane than with a possibility of adding another interlocutor to Israel from the Arab world, alongside President as-Sadat--I mean, first and foremost, Jordan. It seems to me that today, the positions I have presented, the fundamental approach, will make bringing Jordan to the discussion table more easy, will change Israel's status in the United States, without this contradicting either my concept or that of the Labor Party and the Alinement and of the previous governments as to what peace, its form, its boundaries and its framework for the future should be.

[Rubinstein] Do you see, nevertheless, from the analysis which you have just made, a possibility of an agreement and a settlement between us and Egypt alone? If so, what would you advise the prime minister to do in order to advance, or to return these negotiations to the previous path?

[Rabin] I do not deal with suggestions to the prime minister. I hope, believe, that he will make every effort, during his visit to the United States, to examine the possibility of separate negotiations with Egypt. I do not see this possibility as being in the bag and as certain, and therefore, parallel to a search for this possibility, the search for the additional partner should be continued in order to make it easier for President as-Sadat and for Egypt. I think, in general, the chance of achieving peace, as far as the ripeness of the Arab countries for peace is concerned today, lies with Egypt and with Jordan. As for the rejectionist states--Syria, Iraq--surely none of us, and certainly not today, even without connection to what took place on Saturday, or today--it never occurred to any one of us to hold negotiations with the organization of murderers called the PLO.

[Golan] Our time is up. Many thanks to MK Yizhaq Rabin and to the correspondents Yosef Harif and Dani Rubinstein.

BEGIN MAKES STATEMENT AFTER CABINET MEETING

TA152023Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Statement by Prime Minister Menahem Begin at 15 March press conference following cabinet meeting at Bet Agron in Jerusalem--live; in English]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen; from time to time the people of Israel and men of good will abroad say Kol Hakavod Lezahal, all the honors to the army of Israel. Today is a day in which we say so. In 24 hours, units of our army accomplished, despite great difficulties of terrain and climate, the mission which they were charged by the Government of Israel. As we said before, the operation started yesterday night and was completed today in the afternoon. This operation is no retribution or retaliation for the bloody attack of Saturday on our citizens, because, obviously, there cannot be any retaliation or retribution for the blood of innocent citizens, men, women and children. Such a retribution is just impossible.

It was an act of legitimate national self-defense. It is our inherent right to defend our people and our country in order to make sure that any attacks upon them will not be carried out in the future.

I would like to stress that we want peace, more than any nation on earth. And if I may be permitted to make a personal remark, I will say, from the bottom of my heart, that in our country there are many, many people who want peace, strive for it as I do. But there is none who wants it more. However, this people who dreams about peace and yearns and prays for it, will fight in order to protect Jews from being hurt, attacked or killed. This is the resolve of our generation and under no circumstances shall we acquiesce in shedding of Jewish blood.

I understand that Moscow condemned the operation carried out and completed by units of our army. This time let me condemn Soviet hypocrisy. The Soviet Union suggested to all nations to sign a convention which defines who is the aggressor in an international conflict. And I will read to you the appropriate article of that Soviet draft convention. In an international conflict, that state shall be declared the attacker which first commits one of the following acts: and this is one of those following acts: support of armed bands organized in its own territory which invades the territory of another state, or refuses, notwithstanding the request of the invaded state, to take in its own territory any action within its power to deny such band any aid or protection.

What happened in Lebanon is exactly within the framework of the Soviet suggested convention against aggression or defining an aggressor. Bands in Lebanon or on Lebanese territory from time to time attack the State of Israel, wound, maim and kill our people. And they have all the protection possible in bases from which they launch their attacks. So the operation by Zahal, by our army, which started yesterday night, is in fullest sense of the word the use of the inherent right of legitimate self-defense, which is a result also of the Soviet definition of aggression.

And let me present to you a document which is written in two languages, in Russian and in English. And this is a certificate given to a terrorist of the (Jibril) group--one of the most violent groups together with that of Habash and the others--by the Soviet Union, which states that a certain member of that (Jibril) group studied in a course of officers in the Soviet Union and completed his studies and he is proclaimed a staff officer. For obvious reasons, we deleted the name of the man, but this is the original document given to one of the (Jibril) group as a staff officer and his studies took place in the Soviet Union. So in cynical breach of international law and of the Soviet Union's draft convention itself, the Soviet Union instructs those terrorists who come to kill and attack our citizens and with these two documents in our hand, we can now say to the Soviet Union that its attitude to what happened in the Middle East is sheer and shameful hypocrisy.

Ladies and gentlemen, our army was not sent into southern Lebanon for the purpose to stay there. We want an agreement and an arrangement as a result of which in all those places which the defense minister and the chief of staff will today name to you from which the murderers were ejected, they should not return to them, and in general that southern Lebanon will not serve as a base for further attacks against the State of Israel and its citizens. This is the real purpose of the decision taken by the Government of Israel, and of the operation carried out valiantly by the units of our army. Thank you for your attention.

BEGIN, WEIZMAN, GUR HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

TA152051Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1938 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur after 15 March cabinet session at Bet Agron in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] [Moderator] The prime minister, the defense minister and the chief of staff will now answer your questions.

[Qital] Shalom Qital, Israel Radio. Mr Prime Minister, you said we have not sent the IDF into Lebanon to remain there. What is intended in the territory in which the IDF has been active in the past 20 hours?

[Begin] As I have said, this was an operation to defend our citizens and we will now act to achieve a settlement that will insure the nonreturn of the murderers to the places from which they have been expelled and will insure that southern Lebanon no longer serves as a base for their aggression against Israel and its citizens.

[Elimelekh Ram] Mr Begin, do you believe that after the operation--after the completion of the operation--new elements will have been introduced into the deliberations that you will conduct with President Carter next week?

[Begin] I believe so.

[Ram] May I ask what elements, sir?

[Begin] We will certainly discuss, during our visit to the United States, this affair as I have already explained it--how to insure a settlement which will result in there being no more attacks from southern Lebanon against Israel and its citizens.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, with whom are we seeking a settlement in southern Lebanon? Who is the interlocutor?

[Begin] The elements that come under consideration.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, both in its press and in its broadcasts, Egypt has attacked the operation in Lebanon, claiming that it harms the peace initiative. In your opinion, what influence will this operation have on your peace initiative?

[Begin] If Egypt really seriously wants negotiations for a peace agreement with Israel, to sign a peace treaty, then all the events that have taken place recently should not act as a barrier to conducting the negotiations that should result in the achievement of an agreement between us and Egypt.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, did the United States appeal to Israel during the past day or did it submit a Lebanese request to limit or end the IDF operation in southern Lebanon?

[Begin] There has been no such appeal on the part of the U.S. Government. I received a message from the U.S. President in which he expresses his heartfelt feelings about the disgusting act that occurred on Saturday afternoon. The same goes for the secretary of state. I have, since the, received, from all parts of the world--from premiers, foreign ministers, from others--telegrams exporessing their deep shock about what happened in our country on Saturday with respect to the bloodshed perpetrated against us--men, women and children.

[Unidentified correspondent] Throughout the day--since the IDF operation began--have any political contacts been conducted--with the United States, for example?

[Begin] No. There have not yet been any political contacts.

[Several correspondents try to ask questions at the same time.]

[Begin] I am prepared to answer all of your questions, but I think that justice demands that you direct some questions to the defense minister and the chief of staff.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, I am from Israel Radio. I am prepared to ask you a question. After the IDF operation, do you believe that the terrorist forces will infiltrate into Israel again?

[Begin] No, I think that we have to achieve a settlement which will result in their no longer returning.

[Unidentified correspondent] You said no longer, but the former navy chief said that it is impossible to hermetically seal the entire long Israeli coast.

[Begin] This is another question. We will adopt all measures to defend our people, and the IDF operation in Lebanon that began yesterday is one of the measures that we have adopted.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Begin, you said you want an agreement....

[Begin--in English] I can't hear at the same time both Hebrew and English. One language at a time please.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Begin, you said you want an agreement to keep the terrorists out of southern Lebanon. Who would you like to see as partners to that agreement and what happens if an agreement can't be reached?

[Begin--in English] Well, we hope it will be reached and all the factors involved will be consulted.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Prime Minister, earlier in the day the defense minister expressed the hope that the operations in southern Lebanon would not inhibit progress in the peace-making process, and I gather that that is the hope of your entire government, but as prime minister, and as a political analyst, is it your expectation that the operations engaged in will, in fact, not inhibit the peace-seeking process; that Mr as-Sadat will, in fact, be able to proceed and that the Americans will also be able to proceed; and if that is your expectation on what do you base it?

[Begin--in English] In fact, I answer your questions because it was put to me in Hebrew, but I will gladly translate my reply into English. If Egypt seriously wants to conduct negotiations with Israel about the establishment of peace and the conclusion of peace treaties, all the events which took place during the last days will not and should not be an obstacle to such serious negotiations about the conclusion of peace between Israel and Egypt.

[Dr. (Miles)--in English] In view of the dramatic events of the last few days, do you feel that the dispute with the prime minister of Austria could be adjourned for the time being? I come from Austria, my name is Dr (Miles) from the WOCHENPRESSE Vienna.

[Begin--in English] I prefer not to react to what the prime minister--or rather the chancellor--of Austria said yesterday.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Prime Minister, are we to understand that the Israeli forces are prepared to remain in the areas in southern Lebanon until the agreement you talked about has been reached?

[Begin--in English] Yes, it is self-understood. We want an agreement as a result of which such attacks will not again be perpetrated against us.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Can I address a question to the chief of staff. Can you tell us anything about casualty figures on the Israeli side, and describe the operations perhaps?

[Gur--in English] Not yet about casualties.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Could you tell us something about the operation please?

[Gur--in English] We started the operation yesterday evening by infantry forces supported by artillery, engineers, armor and air force. This morning we added some armored forces and we conducted a combined operation, again with the support of the air force and the navy, and I can say that at about 5 o'clock the main part of the opearation was over.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Prime Minister, has, in fact, a cordon sanitaire been established in southern Lebanon and what are its dimensions?

[Begin--in English] We don't use that term my friend--cordon sanitaire--because we remember its history. It doesn't apply to us at all.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] What phrase would you use?

[Begin--in English] What we want is simple security to make sure that our citizens live and work in peace. And all the terms do not apply. Now we do hope that there will be an arrangement so that southern Lebanon and Lebanon not be in the future a base for such intolerable attacks against Israel and its citizens and then our army, then will be enable to do its duty in going back to Israel's territory. This is what we want and we hope that such an arrangement will be reached, because all the factors involved should be interested in peace.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Let me use another phrase, sir. How deep is the security belt that Israel has established in southern?

[Gur--in English] Right now we are at a depth of about 10 kilometers.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] And the Israeli forces intend to remain there?

[Gur--in English] That's what the prime minister said before.

[Unidentified correspondent] A question to the defense minister. Will you be leaving together with the prime minister and the foreign minister for the United States next week?

[Weizman] No.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Chief of Staff, or perhaps the Defense Minister, you decide exactly who this is directed to.

Do we have contacts with the Christians in Lebanon--a certain coordination--both with respect to the present and with respect to the near future? You decide among yourselves who should answer.

[Weizman] There are Christian residents in southern Lebanon with whom we have links and they have brothers in northern Lebanon. They are linked with each other in the present and in the future. We will insure that the situation of the Christians in southern Lebanon, with whom we have been linked for 2 years, remains and improves and that they continue to live with us in friendship as we have lived until now.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct] and the settlement--the settlement that we aspire to--are they in on the matter?

[Weizman] You want to be in on everything.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Two questions please. First of all, can either the chief of staff or defense minister tell us how far north Israeli forces reached other than the air force--forces on land. Did they reach as far as the bridges of the Litani River as some reports have said? Secondly, what practical diplomatic steps are underway to negotiate the agreement that the prime minister refers to?

[Gur--in English] As about the depth until now, we are staying at about 10 kilometers from our border inside Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Did any forces reach further north and come back?

[Gur--in English] No.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] And about the practical steps toward an agreement?

[Weizman--in English] What negotiations with anyone? Not yet.

[Ram] Mr Defense Minister, now that I understand that the military operation is over, what, in fact, will the IDF do in the territory in which it sits today?

[Weizman] It will defend it and will defend the State of Israel and will prevent terrorists from acting from southern Lebanon.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Could the chief of staff please tell us if there is any fighting still continuing in any place in southern Lebanon, and, secondly, whether any Palestinian troops are still coming into the area south of the Litani?

[Gur--in English] Well, there isn't anything that we can describe as fighting although there were some shootings all during the evening--mainly katyushas and some artillery fire on our settlements--but not real fighting between our units and the Fatah units. As about reinforcement, we did see during the hours of the afternoon some reinforcements. It is quite different to say right now if they are still continuing to come in because we are not sitting on the bridges of the Litani River.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Prime Minister, to come back to the questioned agreement Israel is seeking now in the southern Lebanon, you said earlier that it would be carried out or concluded with all the parties concerned. Does that include the Palestinians in southern Lebanon? And secondly, what kind of a mechanism do you envisage for starting the ball rolling--for getting these talks, these contacts, underway?

[Begin--in English] As you know we do not negotiate with the organization called the PLO. It should be outlawed by all nations. We called upon all democratic nations to shut down their offices. It is morally inconceivable that offices of an organization which boasts about killing women and children should continue in democratic countries. And we are not going to negotiate with that murderous Nazi organization which is bent on the destruction of the Jewish state and sends its men to kill Jews because they are Jews only and citizens of Israel. But of course, there are factors, there are partners, and we shall negotiate with all those involved in this issue with the purpose to achieve the proper arrangement, and the proper arrangement is no more attacking of Israel and its citizens. No more shooting, no more incursions and no more bloodshed. To keep the peace, this is the arrangement. And let us give a chance.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] But how do you see these negotiations being carried out, Prime Minister?

[Begin--in English] It is tonight. We shall see during the daylight.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Would you consider Syria to be one of the parties to these negotiations?

[Begin--in English] All the factors involved will be consulted. And let us hope that such an agreement and arrangement will indeed be reached. All men of good will should now wish that Israel succeeds in such negotiations and that such an agreement is indeed achieved.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Lieutenant General Gur, could you estimate for us the size of the Palestinian force which were sent south and could you give us an idea of the casualties inflicted on the terrorists during today's operation?

[Gur--in English] The number of the Fatah people usually situated in southern Lebanon was around 2,000 people. It is quite difficult to give you numbers of today but it was not very sizable. The casualties that we know about Fatah people is around 100.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] General Gur, could you please give us a somewhat more graphic and concrete description of the targets that were hit by Israeli forces today, and would you comment on the reports that have come out of Beirut in the past 24 hours, specifically those referring to Israeli bombing raids on Palestinians bases inside Beirut as well as the sea attack on Tyre?

[Gur--in English] First of all let me say it clearly that there was no bombing in Beirut and all the bombings, shellings and the fighting were carried out in remote places. I would like to mention also that such an accusation was mentioned several months ago. Now we know that one of the terrorists that was active in the last raid in last Sabbath made his training in one of the bases that we bomb and they claim it was a civilian area. Now today, there were several types of strongholds, some of them in the nature mainly by Fatah people, some of them very close to villages, some of them by the As-Sa'iqah people, some of them by the Fatah people, and then they had some bases on the coastline in which those people were doing their training before committing that horrible action of Sabbath.

[Weizman--in English] If I may add onto the question that you said--I think you asked about the casualties, someone asked. What the chief of staff said was quite right about the fighting--the immediate fighting--the close fighting in the battle zones--100 closely.

But the casualties that we cannot count were where we shelled and where we bombed and where we shelled from the sea. We assume there are more casualties.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] General, could you comment specifically, did Israeli ships attack the port of Tyre, and was there a bombing raid in the vicinity of Beirut as was reported in the Beirut radio today?

[Gur--in English] The closest place to Beirut was about 7 km to 10 km south of Beirut; that was the bases of ('Uzzay) in which the people who committed that raid last Sabbath had some of their training. If you mean that vicinity, that is the vicinity of Beirut.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] And Tyre?

[Gur--in English] And in Tyre there was no shelling from the sea. We bombed part of the port from the air.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] Mr Minister of Defense, though you describe this action as not being retaliation, would it be right to describe it as hot pursuit?

[Begin--in English] I suppose the real definition is use of the inherent right of legitimate self-defense by a state attacked to protect the lives of its citizens.

[Unidentified correspondent] A question to the defense minister or to the chief of staff. According to Syrian declarations prior to the operation, Syria committed itself to giving active support in the event of an Israeli attack. What, in the defense minister's opinion, prevented the Syrians from fulfilling their commitment and what is the prime minister's opinion of the Syrian declaration as broadcast over the communications media to the effect that they would provide support--I think though air activity--against Israel?

[Weizman] Both in the operation itself and in the announcement that we made we tried, and I think that we succeeded--I hope that we succeeded--in causing Syria to understand that we were dealing with a limited operation. We acted in a region from Har Dov through a few villages which we entered and conquered--from the famous village of Al-Khiyyam, Al-Fukhkhar, (Abu al-Saqi) and we went further south and west until we reached the seashore at Naqurah--all of these-- and we are today sitting in Naqurah--all of these are places which are far away from the Syrian forces located in Lebanon and I hope that they got the message that we were carrying out a limited operation in that region which is malignant for us. In addition to this, we said this in the announcements in simple language. We will remain limited to those areas in which we fought. I hope that the Syrians understood and will understand.

[Unidentified correspondent from Cairo--in broken Hebrew] Mr Begin and Mr 'Ezer Weizman....

[Weizman] It's good that you don't call me 'Ezra.

[Correspondent] 'Ezer Weizman. In Cairo you are called 'Ezra.

[Weizman] Not by all of them. Those who know me call me 'Ezer.

[Correspondent] Yes I hear every day that they call you 'Ezra and they improved your name from Weizman to Veizman. Yes. Yesterday Mr Begin--condemned--the Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat the Sabbath act. Yes. Condemned it strongly and today the IDF operation was condemned but not with the Egyptian president's tongue, but with the foreign minister's tongue, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and what I want to know....

[Moderator] What is your question please?

[Correspondent] Sorry. I am asking if they condemned this operation--what is your opinion if you meet with President Carter next week and if there is some meeting with the Egyptian president? What is your answer? [question as heard]

[General laughter]

[Begin] Whoever condemns the murder of men, women and children is doing nothing but fulfilling a basic human obligation. We do not have to express appreciation for the fulfillment of such a human obligation.

[Correspondent] Quite right.

[Begin] The shocking thing is....

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Begin] That spokesmen of peoples around us did not condemn, but on the contrary, praised this murder.

[Moderator] Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] General Gur, sir, what was the response of the Syrian forces on the ground? To what extent did they involve themselves in the fighting?

[Gur--in English] Until now I am happy to say that they were as careful as we were and they were not involved in any sense in the fighting of today.

[Unidentified correspondent--in English] What about the reports that they had antiaircraft missiles stationed around Palestinian outposts or bases and that they were manning these antiaircraft....

[Gur--in English] There is no proof to that.

[Moderator] Thank you.

HERZOG: UN DEBATE ON OPERATION WOULD BE GOOD

TA160107Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0100 GMT 16 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Hayyim Herzog, said this evening in a special interview with our correspondent Nadir Zur that a possible Security Council debate on the IDF operation in southern Lebanon would serve as a good forum from an informational point of view. Herzog said that in such a debate it would be possible to unfold the series of terrorist acts against Israel for which Lebanon has served as a major base.

Mr Herzog also said that it is not inconceivable that this is the reason why, for the time being, Arab countries have avoided making a demand to convene a session of the Security Council.

AMBASSADORS INSTRUCTED TO REPORT TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

TA152324Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 2010 GMT 15 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel's ambassadors in countries friendly toward Israel have been asked, in accordanc with Foreign Ministry instructions, to report to the governments in their countries on the IDF operation in Lebanon and its aims.

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